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#1341

July 30, 1999

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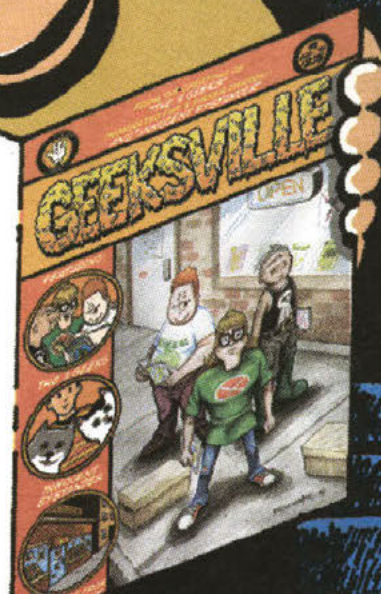
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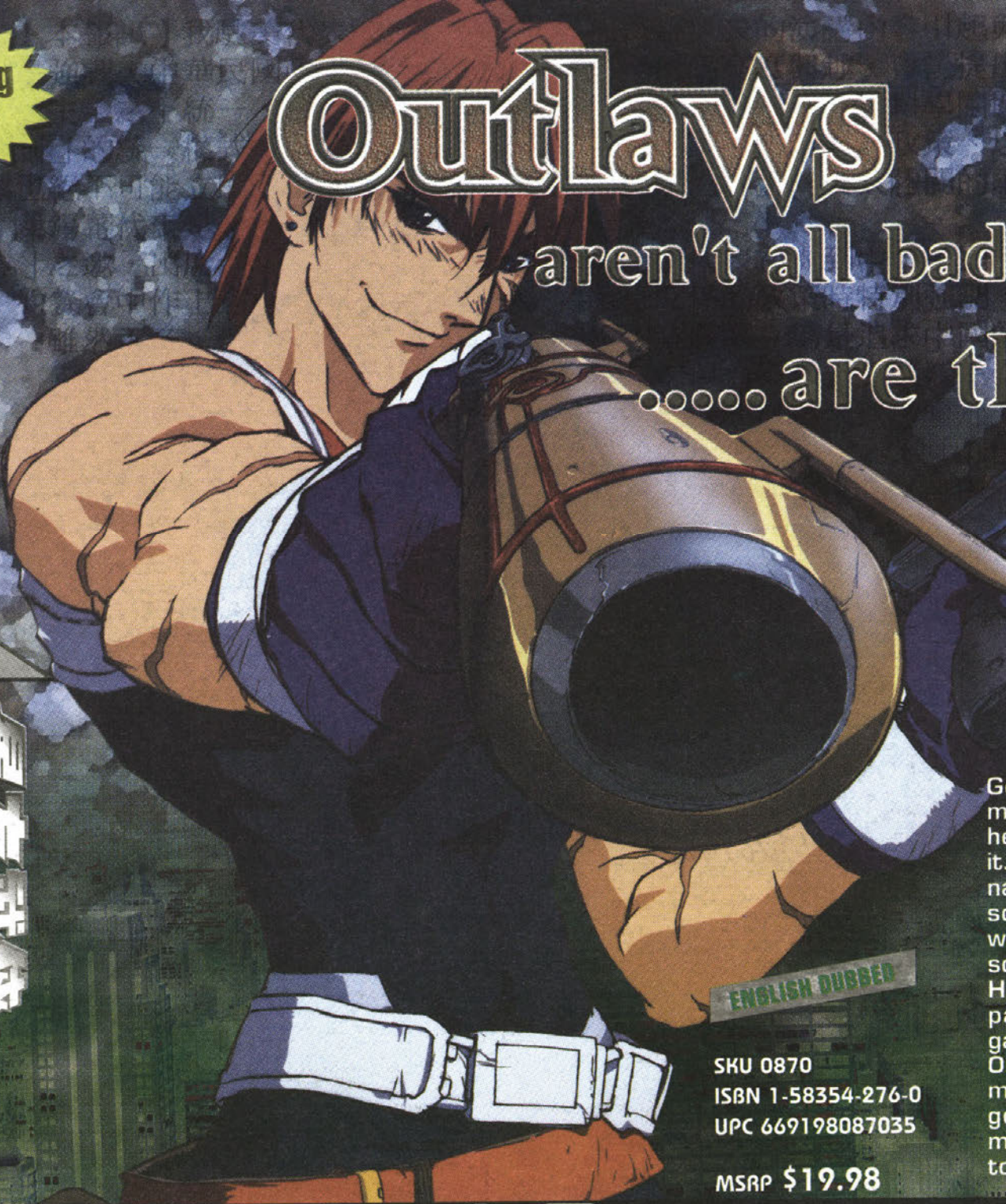


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6-10	9.75	11.00	11.50	12.75	16.75	29.25
11-15	11.00	12.75	13.50	15.75	22.00	37.75
16-20	12.75	15.00	16.00	19.50	25.50	48.75
21-25	15.50	16.75	19.50	21.25	28.50	65.50
26-30	16.75	18.75	21.75	24.75	29.00	75.00
31-35	19.25	21.75	24.25	28.50	30.00	84.50
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COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE

#1341

July 30, 1999

(Vol. 29, #31)

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Editorial
by
**Maggie
Thompson**

You're looking at these random choices and saying, "What the heck is this? How could they not mention Basil Wolverton? Where's Art Spiegelman? Jim Lee? Tom DeFalco? Nick Fury? The Heap? Straight Arrow? Tarzan? Frank Frazetta? Phoenix? Mister Natural? Gen? Mutts? Mr. Mxyzptlk? Lone Wolf and Cub? Savage Dragon? ..."

And you're absolutely right — and doing exactly what we want you to do.

We want you to cast your mind back over all the comics you've ever enjoyed — because you are picking The Comics of the Century. Check out Page 6 for the details, cudgel your brain, and pick your favorites.

Feel free to debate with your friends — and write *Oh, So?* while you're at it. But remember the scope: It's a century that includes Dell and Fawcett and Charlton and Lev Gleason as well as DC and Marvel and ...

Out of all the neat comics that ever were, what are your choices?

COMIC BOOKS, just to name a few ...

Adventure Comics
Detective Comics
Action Comics
Four Color Comics
Marvel Comics
Planet Comics
Pep Comics
Whiz Comics
Spirit sections

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories
All Star Comics
Animal Comics
Classic Comics/Classics Illustrated
Police Comics
Boy Comics
Little Lulu

Tales from the Crypt
Mad
Showcase
Sugar & Spike
Fantastic Four
Incredible Hulk
Amazing Spider-Man
Magnus Robot Fighter
X-Men/Uncanny X-Men
Cerebus

Elfquest
Love and Rockets
Dark Horse Presents
Sandman
Lobo
Hate
Bone
Spawn
Ranma
Kurt Busiek's Astro City

CHARACTERS, just to name a few ...

Dick Tracy
Mickey Mouse
Donald Duck
Superman
Lois Lane
Batman
Blue Beetle
The Spirit
The Spectre
Captain Marvel

Ibis
Green Lantern
Plastic Man
Captain America
Wonder Woman
Pogo
Archie
Pie-Face Prince
Airboy
Little Lulu

Uncle Scrooge
Flash
Sgt. Rock
Reed Richards
Incredible Hulk
Spider-Man
The Beast
Herbie
Darkseid
Swamp Thing
Wolverine

Cerebus
Lobo
John Constantine
Concrete
Venom
Sandman
Fone Bone
Death
Spawn
Deadpool
Akiko

COMIC STRIPS, just to name a few ...

Katzenjammer Kids
Buster Brown
Little Nemo
Mutt and Jeff
Polly and Her Pals
Krazy Kat
Cap Stubbs
Thimble Theatre
Out Our Way

Little Orphan Annie
Skippy
Buck Rogers
Joe Palooka
Blondie
Dick Tracy
Henry
Nancy
Terry and the Pirates

Li'l Abner
Prince Valiant
Brenda Starr
Buz Sawyer
Steve Canyon
Pogo
Beetle Bailey
Peanuts
Dennis the Menace
On Stage

B.C.
The Family Circus
Sam's Strip
Doonesbury
Garfield
Far Side
The Far Side
For Better or for Worse
Calvin and Hobbes
Dilbert

CREATORS, just to name a few ...

George Carlson
Percy Crosby
Hal Foster
Elzie Segar
Chester Gould
Carl Barks
Marjorie Henderson Buell
Milton Caniff
Floyd Gottfredson
Alex Raymond
C.C. Beck
Charles Biro

Gardner Fox
Walt Kelly
Jack Cole
Joe Shuster
Jerry Siegel
Joe Simon
Julius Schwartz
Bob Kane
Will Eisner
Jack Kirby
Curt Swan
Bill Mauldin

Stan Lee
Charles Schulz
Harvey Kurtzman
Warren Tufts
Murphy Anderson
Joe Kubert
Gil Kane
Steve Ditko
Wally Wood
Alex Toth
Robert Crumb
Jim Steranko
Neal Adams

Marv Wolfman
Len Wein
Jim Shooter
Frank Miller
Garry Trudeau
John Byrne
Wendy Pini
Mark Gruenwald
Kurt Busiek
Jeff Smith
Alan Moore
Dave Sim
Alex Ross

This week in

COMICS
BUYER'S
GUIDE

On the cover



Ollie
LOOKING VERY WORRIED

Gary Sassaman and Rich Koslowski have combined their separate self-published series, *Innocent Bystander* and *The 3 Geeks*, respectively into the bimonthly *Geeksville*, scheduled to start in August. How did the two creators end up working together and what do they think of each other's series?

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Win our cover!

Gary Sassaman and Rich Koslowski have donated the original black-and-white art for this week's cover to us, and you could win it!

All you have to do is send your name, age, address, and the two comics titles you'd like to see merged (other than *The 3 Geeks* and *Innocent Bystander*) on a postcard to:

CBG Geeksville

Cover Contest

c/o CBG Editorial Dept.

700 E. State St.

Iola, WI 54990

Please only one entry per family or household. **Hurry, the deadline is Sept. 20.** One winner will be chosen at random from the entries received, and the results will be announced in *CBG* #1352.

JULY ISSUE
ON SALE NOW!

PREVIEWS



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July means firing up the barbecue, fireworks... and, as always, the latest and greatest comics in the pages of *Previews*! On the front cover: It's Hell on Earth—literally!—as DC presents *Day of Judgement*! Around back: *Xena: Warrior Princess* returns to comics, riding on a Dark Horse!

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PREMIER

Terry McGinnis is out of control, and only Bruce Wayne can stop him in DC's *Batman Beyond*!

Also:

- Scott Lobdell and Ed Benes take over creative duties on *Gen¹³* and launch an exciting new direction!
- Decades later, they're still living in the Yellow Submarine, and McFarlane Toys and Image are ready to let you visit, with the *Beatles Yellow Submarine Action Figures*!
- Amid government experiments and dangerous villains, the truth about the connection between the *Witchblade* and the Darkness comes to light in *Top Cow and Image's Witchblade #35*!
- Juggernaut has his day in the sun, as the *Marvel* heroes must try to survive the astonishing *Eighth Day* crossover event!
- Wizard plays Santa with a special devoted to the ultimate want list—*Toy Wishes: The Ultimate Holiday Toy Buyers Guide*!

COMICS

The End of the World as We Know It! This is it! Chaos! brings about the destruction of the universe, beginning in *Armageddon #1*!

Also:

- They're stupid, stupid, and more stupid! Get the scoop on Bone's nemeses in *Cartoon Books' Stupid, Stupid Rat Tales: The Adventures of Big Johnson Bone*!
- The *Rugrats* have got their own comic book, courtesy of the folks at Nickelodeon!
- The World's Worst Super-Hero Team is back, as *Acclaim's Quantum & Woody* return!

MAGAZINES

Previews Exclusive Covers! *Buffy the Vampire Slayer Official Magazine* and *X-Files Official Magazine* both have covers this month that you can only get from *Previews*!

Also:

- Gotta Catch 'Em All! And the best way to do it is with Beckett Presents *The Unofficial Guide to Pokémon*!

TRADING CARDS

Inkworks keeps slaying 'em, thanks to the *Buffy the Vampire Slayer Season 3 Cards*!

VIDEOS

Think fast—really fast! *Sonic the Hedgehog* comes to video and DVD!

MERCHANDISE

Diamond Select releases another wave of coolness, including the second series of *Gen¹³ 12" figures*, the 12" *Chastity* from *Eternal Toys*, and some awesome *Captain Action* figures!

Also:

- A *Famous Covers Spider-Girl* and a *Greatest Moments Two-Pack* featuring Cyclops and Dark Phoenix, and Bullseye and Elektra—all exclusive to *Previews*!
- A bird, a plane, a...car? A replica of *Jeff Gordon's NASCAR vehicle* features Superman's symbol as its detailing!

FEATURES

Go where darkness dwells...into the mind of Brian Pulido, as he tells all about the end of the world and *Armageddon*!

Also:

- A special interview with Jeff Smith, as he launches this month's prequel to *Bone*, featuring the Rat Creatures and Big Johnson Bone!

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YOU choose the COMICS OF THE CENTURY!

Yes, we're sick of the millennium already, too — and we're still convinced it's more than a year away, to boot. But every field is compiling its list of greats of the 1900s for mass media consumption, and you and the comics industry will be well represented.

Where others might do broad surveys or limit their ballots to a handful of experts, we recognized the strengths of both routes and designed a program with them in mind. By this fall, we'll have a read on the **favorite** comics and creators of comics fans in general; of fandom's elite, the readers of **CBG**; and of working comics professionals at the end of the 1900s. By conducting the surveys separately, we'll get a read on the differences in tastes among the groups.

The program is modeled on our own **CBG Fan Awards**, the 17th Annual edition of which appeared in **CBG** #1327. As in the annual awards, we aren't looking for the greatest, the most influential, or the most important — we're looking for your **favorites**. They may well be one and the same — but they may not. Don't be moved by conventional wisdom; give us your unfiltered preferences.

Three surveys. As noted, we're conducting surveys with three different groups. The differences are summarized at upper right, but, basically, the **"CBG Reader Survey"** is identical to the current configuration of our annual Fan Awards program. Only **CBG** subscribers and shop-copy customers get votes in this survey, and photocopies of these ballots will not be accepted for inclusion in the **CBG** Reader tallies.

We're also running a "Fan Survey" for the general public outside the **CBG** readership. This is exactly as our old Fan Awards program used to be until a few years ago; photocopying and distribution of the Fan Ballot is acceptable and encouraged. We'll still throw out the

votes of anyone who votes more than once, and spot-checks using voter contact information will be conducted. As such, contact information is **mandatory** for votes to count.

The Fan Survey presents **CBG** readers with an opportunity to let friends or household members *who are also comics fans* to participate. **CBG** readers may photocopy the ballot inserted in this issue for distribution to others, but they must mark "Fan Ballot" in the upper-right corner of all the photocopies so we can get them into the proper groups here.

Finally, we're conducting a Pro Survey by sending ballots to our current mailing list of active comics professionals. While the list is broad, it is not necessarily complete or entirely up-to-date, so those reading this who feel they qualify should write to the address in the box at right.

CBG reserves the right to rule on voter eligibility in the interest of assuring the viability of the survey as an instrument for revealing the preferences of true comics fans. We're confident that this program will yield interesting reading for all involved.

Want to explain a vote? Use the back of your ballot, if you'd like to write a paragraph or so telling us why a particular work or creator is your favorite. We'll be using select ones (along with the voter's names, unless you ask to be anonymous) in the final reports for each category.

Eligibility. Unless you're a big fan of the Yellow Kid, you can pretty much assume that we're looking for your "all-time favorites." Whereas our regular Fan Awards are stringent as to cover dates, you won't have to worry about that at all this time.

Within categories, creators must have done identifiable *published* comics work in a given category. We strongly recom-

We're conducting three separate **Comics of the Century** surveys:

FAN SURVEY

Copies of the ballot for the **general public** will be available at the **CBG** booths at the Chicago and San Diego cons. It is also available from the address below. Photocopying of the ballot **IS** permitted, but if you vote more than once, *all* your votes will be thrown out. Ballots are due **August 31**.

CBG READER SURVEY

The ballot for **CBG readers** is inserted in this issue. If it isn't, contact us at the address below. Each **CBG** subscriber or shop-copy customer gets **only one** vote in the **CBG** Reader Survey and may not photocopy ballots for inclusion in that poll. However, if you'd like to distribute Fan Survey ballots to your friends, simply photocopy your **CBG** Reader ballot and mark "FAN SURVEY" in the upper right corner of the copies. Ballots are due by **September 17** to count.

PRO SURVEY

Copies of the ballot for **comics creators** will be mailed to our list of active professionals. It's not a complete list, however, so, if you believe you qualify, please contact us to obtain a pro ballot. Only one ballot will be accepted from each professional, and ballots are due **September 17**.

To request a fan or pro ballot — or a replacement for a missing **CBG** ballot — send a SASE to **CBG Ballot Request**, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI, 54990.

Be sure to specify which one you need.

*Note: While you may qualify to vote in more than one survey, please submit a ballot only for one of the three. A voter in the **CBG** Survey will carry relatively more weight in that tally than one in the Fan Survey; and since there are fewer still in the Pro group, a vote in that survey will affect that tally even more.*

mend *not* putting the same person in multiple categories unless they did a lot of work in each.

Works should be specific. If you say your favorite title is *Spider-Man*, we'll assume it's the series started in 1990, not the one started in 1963. Multiple-volume restarts such as *Superman* and *Amazing Spider-Man* will be considered as one title, and, if a title changed names, we'll still consider them as one series.

"Limited series" in this context means 12 issues or less, whether the limitation was planned or not. "Story" means a single story or arc with a specific name. Just "the Superman story" won't cut it.

We've ditched the distinction between original and reprint graphic novels or

albums for these purposes, for obvious reasons. A comic-strip category has been added.

And in a change, in "Favorite Publication about Comics" — book, magazine, or fanzine — **CBG**, its precursor *The Buyer's Guide for Comic Fandom*, and *Comics Retailer* will be eligible.

The results! The **CBG** staff will tabulate the various categories separately and will publish results for a few key categories in **CBG** #1354 (cover-dated Oct. 29, 1999), our third annual giant-sized issue. Thereafter, results for a different category will be published in each week's issue through the end of the year, so you won't want to miss any!

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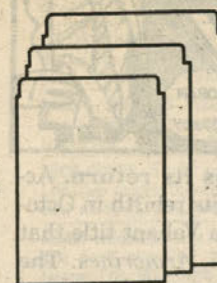
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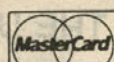
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Acclaim continues its return. Acclaim slowly continues its rebirth in October with the return of a Valiant title that ran from 1993 to 1995, *Armorines*. The new four-issue mini-series will be written by Acclaim Editors **Michael Marts** and **Omar Banmally** and pencilled by **Jim Calafiore**. The mini-series will tie into Acclaim's release of an *Armorines* first-person shooter videogame due out in winter.



Marts said, "*Armorines* takes place in the 'VH-2' universe, which is the same universe we've been operating in since 1996, when **Fabian Nicieza** came on board as editor in chief. That being said, the characters here aren't all entirely new.

Readers will see familiar faces from the old 'VH-1' *Armorines* series by **Jorge Gonzales** and **Calafiore** — they'll just be their 'VH-2' counterparts, if that makes any sense."

Also from Acclaim in October's *Shadowman* #4 is Part 2, or "Omega," of the flipbook "VH-1" story "The Valiant Deaths of Jack Boniface" by **Paul Cred-dick** and **Jim Starlin**. In the story, which may reveal further connections between the "VH-1" universe and the revised "VH-2" universe, the reason behind Master Darque's mission to kill all Jack Bonifaces in every universe is revealed, as well as how Solar fits into the picture. The issue also serves as the prelude to Acclaim's upcoming "Unity 2000" event.

The *Shadowman* story and *Armorines* mini-series join another returning Acclaim series, *Quantum & Woody*. "It seemed that *Quantum & Woody* was really beginning to catch on with the masses right about the time that it was canceled," Marts said. "The fan press was behind it, along with critics and retailers. We're hoping that we can recapture some of that steam and use it to propel the popularity of the series in a great new direction. You've got the brilliant teamwork of **Christopher Priest** and **MD Bright** working together. Titles like *Avengers* and *Preacher* are proof that, if you have two dedicated people working on a series together, trying to make it the best comic book possible, people will eventually catch on."

Aquaman creative team finalized. DC Editor **Tony Bedard** has confirmed that artists **Steve Epting** (*Superman*) and **Michael Kaluta** (*Books of Magic*) have signed on the dotted line to round out the new *Aquaman* creative team, as penciller and cover artist, respectively. The duo joins the previously announced new writer **Dan Jurgens**, and the team makes its collective debut with November's *Aquaman* #63.

Meet Ellis' Pop. **Warren Ellis**, recently named by *Entertainment Weekly* as the "It Comic Moralizer" for his work on Vertigo's *Transmetropolitan*, has never been one to shy away from applying his outspoken views on the current state of comics in his work. And in response to what Ellis calls a "notion" he's had for a while regarding the industry and comic-book format, the writer has announced the creation of what he's calling Pop Comics.

More of an approach to storytelling than a new imprint, *per se*, Pop Comics will comprise a string of three-issue limited series featuring new characters and concepts created by Ellis and various artists.

"I like buying comics," explained Ellis. "I like going into comics shops and seeing new comics. And I like the little charge of creators I like starting something new. Coming in on the ground floor of new Alan Moore ABC titles these past few months has been great — just grabbing

these beautiful objects off the shelves to read new ideas from him, see what he's thinking about, see where his mind is and where he thinks the culture is. And it doesn't happen often enough.

"Comics are way too geared toward the ongoing series, to things never-ending. Even Alan is intending his four new ABC series as ongoing titles. The status-quo comic book is a comfort thing: something the reader is supposed to sink into with relief after dealing with an unquiet, unpredictable real world. This is the essential appeal of The X-Men, a family of outcasts for the outcast comics reader. No one really dies. But, you know, as an adult, I demand more than that from the medium. I think, deep down, most people do.

"I want a bit of excitement from the medium, a sense of constant novelty and invention. I want the equivalent of a new single by your favorite band every three months. I want Pop Comics, if you like: my favorite writers inventing something brand new every few months, working with artists to create fun and beautiful comics that I'm not afraid to pass on or lose or even stuff in a bin."

Ellis' previously announced limited series from Silverline, *Station*, will be the first of his Pop Comics. More Pop Comics will be announced shortly, including a three-issue hardcore horror series and a 60-page "graphic novella" that will be initially serialized in six parts, both from a yet-to-be-named independent publisher.

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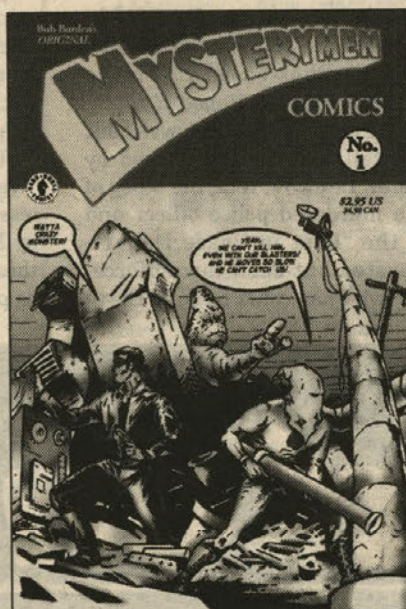
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Grendel: Devil Tales

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Star Wars #8



Rogue casting for X-Men

According to *Variety*, **Anna Paquin** has been cast as Rogue in the upcoming *X-Men* feature film from Fox, not **Rebecca Rom-jin Stamos** (as reported in *CBG* #1340). Stamos has been cast as Mystique. Paquin's addition to the cast leaves the roles of Marvel Girl and Cyclops as the two remaining uncast X-Men. Previous rumors that Iceman, Gambit, and Beast would make appearances in the film were apparently false.

Ledger as Spider-Man? According to an article in South Australia's *Rip It Up* magazine, **Heath Ledger** (*10 Things I Hate about You*), is apparently in the running for Sony's upcoming *Spider-Man* film, despite the lack of an approved script. "As for *Spider-Man*, again, there have been discussions," Ledger was quoted as saying. "*Spider-Man* is another Columbia film, and they like to keep you in the 'family,' but it's too early to know what will happen with that one; it won't come about until late 2000."

An option for pre-comics R.I.P.D. In what's becoming more and more of a trend, the Universal Studios-based Lawrence Gordon Productions has optioned *R.I.P.D.*, a Dark Horse comics series that won't hit shelves until fall. The series, created by Producer **Peter Lenkov**, tells the story of Nick Cruz, a murdered police officer and member of the "Rest in Peace Department," a devoted-but-dead law enforcement agency, who has come back to Earth

to battle supernatural evil. According to *The Hollywood Reporter*, if the film gets made, Lenkov and Dark Horse will see a seven-figure payday.

Gilliam: *Watchmen* film not dead? In a recent *TNT Rough Cut* interview with **Terry Gilliam**, the moviemaker and former Monty Python ensemble member, discussed his comic-book influences as well as several comic-book projects he's been attached to at one time or another. "*Watchmen* still hangs in the air," Gilliam told *Rough Cut*. "I think we should just do a mini-series. Then you can [take] five hours to tell the tale."

Gilliam also revealed that he is attached to a film version of **Neil Gaiman** and **Terry Pratchett's** *Good Omens* and feels that **Frank Miller** and **Bill Sienkiewicz's** *Elektra: Assassin* would make a powerful film.

Lupin video; delayed *Mononoke*. While Disney has the rights to **Hayao Miyazaki's** anime works, Manga Entertainment, thanks to a pre-Disney agreement, will release Miyazaki's 1979 animated masterpiece *Lupin: Castle of Cagliostro* Oct. 26 in dubbed, subtitled, and DVD editions.

In other Miyazaki news, Miramax's "Westernized" version of Miyazaki's *Princess Mononoke*, featuring a script adapted by **Neil Gaiman**, will now reportedly hit theaters Oct. 29 rather than mid-summer, as previously announced by the studio.

Goldfish flushed at Miramax. According to **Brian Bendis**, Miramax, which had optioned the film rights to his *Aka Goldfish*, has allowed the rights to expire. "It's not what I wanted to have happen, but it wasn't a negative experience overall," Bendis said. "I got to go to Hollywood, they put me in the union, and it was a great learning experience. I can't really blame Miramax for dropping the option, because they're really moving more toward films that appeal to the teen-age crowd, which *Goldfish* isn't."

Bendis also reported that he is in talks with other studios regarding *Goldfish*, *Jinx*, and his and **Marc Andreyko's** *Torso* mini-series, which Bendis described as "the sequel to *The Untouchables* meets *Seven*."

Schwarzenegger as Savage. While he may not have done much for the Batman franchise, Warner Brothers and Universal Pictures are hoping **Arnold Schwarzenegger** will work wonders for another comic-book-pulp hero: Doctor Clark Savage Jr. The new film version of **Lester Dent's** hero, *Doc Savage* will be both produced and directed by **Frank Darabont** (*The Shawshank Redemption*) and **Chuck Russell** (*Eraser*) for Castle Rock Pictures.

According to *Variety*, the new movie will have no relation to Warner Brothers' campy 1975 *Doc Savage* film; instead, it will feature a new story by Darabont and Russell which will be scripted by **David Leslie Johnson**. □

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- 3 JLA: Year One.....DC
- 4 Sailor Moon Super S Pocket Mixx.....Mixx
- 5 Batman: Cataclysm.....DC
- 6 Superman/Fantastic Four.....DC
- 7 Flash: Born to Run.....DC
- 8 Veils.....DC
- 9 Cerebus.....Aardvark-Vanaheim
- 10 Hellblazer: Damnation's Flame.....DC

Source: Comics Retailer Magazine

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- 1 Sailor Moon Pocket Mixx Vol. 3.....Mixx
- 2 Crimson.....DC
- 3 Batman: Cataclysm.....DC
- 4 Curse of the Spawn Vol. 1.....Image
- 5 Voodoo: Dancing in the Dark.....DC
- 6 Tarzan of the Apes.....Dark Horse
- 7 Avengers: Visionaries: George Pérez...Marvel
- 8 Hellblazer: Damnation's Flame.....DC
- 9 Flash: Born to Run.....DC
- 10 Star Wars: The Last Command.....Dark Horse

Source: Preorders to Diamond Comic Distributors

May 1999 Top Backlist Sales

- 1 Star Wars: Episode I.....Dark Horse
- 2 Sailor Moon Pocket Mixx Vol. 1.....Mixx
- 3 Sailor Moon Pocket Mixx Vol. 2.....Mixx
- 4 Marvels.....Marvel
- 5 Buffy: The Dust Waltz.....Dark Horse

Source: Retailer reorders to Diamond Comic Distributors

Bone Vol. 6 coming in August



In August, *Bone Vol. 6, The Old Man's Cave* is due in softcover and hardcover from Cartoon Books. This volume collects *Bone* #33-37, the long-awaited final episode of the first book in the Solstice Trilogy. Find out who The Hooded One is, learn why everyone is after "the one who bears the star," and have a lot of fun with other surprises. Black-and-white, 128 pages, \$17.95. Diamond #JUN991244. FM #199908-0103.

Larry Marder's *Tales of the Beanworld* is being collected in a series of graphic novels by Beanworld Press. The series explores a wide variety of themes, from Native American mythology to TV advertising, from the origins of art and culture to the inner nature of super-heroes — all done with a crazy silliness that makes it truly a comic art classic. Vol. 4 collects #12-16 and includes the fan favorite "The Cutie, Cutie, Boom, Boom Dance" and an afterword by Marder. Softcover, 120 pages, black and white, \$11.95. Diamond #JUN991213. FM #1999 08-0085.

Quantum and Woody's fourth collection is due in stores in August. This graphic novel presents *Quantum & Woody* #13-16 and new bonus material by creators Christopher Priest and M.D. Bright. Tragedy, disillusionment, and revenge will change the world's worst super-heroes forever in this full-color, 96-page trade paperback from Acclaim. \$7.95. Diamond #JUN991102

Superman for All Seasons, the Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale multi-award nominated four-part mini-series, will be collected into a 208-page full-color hardback. Hailed as one of Superman's most dynamic and human stories, the book explores the man, the family, the values, and the world that shaped the Man of Tomorrow. Look for it in stores in September. From DC, the graphic novel will list for \$24.95.

— Mike Keeney, Comic Corner, Huntsville, Ala.

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Lost Cause is Jack Jackson's bold and vivid treatment of the history of Texas. The story follows the family of gunfighter John Wesley Hardin as they try to make a life on the American frontier. Part Western adventure, part documentary, this is full of well-researched facts and wild stories.

Why buy? Comics do history well. Comics visually remind the reader over and over of the costumes, settings, and personalities that populate a historical period while telling an interesting, character-based story. With the right artist, this can be simultaneously informative and entertaining. Jackson is the right artist.

Harlem Beat

Harlem Beat is a sports comic book that works: Its dynamic and compelling characters deal with familiar and realistic issues like teamwork, individuality, and tenacity. Characters grow and change as the plot unfolds, maturing due to events both on and off the courts. This Japanese story captures the excitement of a good sports event and the personal development of a good drama to make a great comic book.

Why buy? This story was originally published one chapter at a time in *Mixxine*. *Mixxine* is a more than 100-page anthology that presents a chapter of five different manga stories in each \$5.99 issue, making it difficult and expensive to find all back issues. Also, it's interesting to see the exaggerated Japanese view of American street culture — and curious to find that

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their view is less exaggerated and better researched than almost all Japanese cultural references in American comics.

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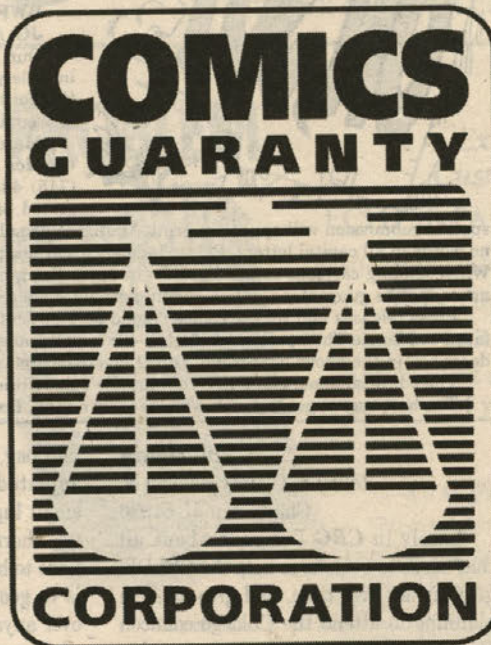
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Letters will be edited and may be cut due to length and other considerations. Responses to *Oh, So?* will be in first person, and — unless otherwise identified — will be by Maggie Thompson. Other respondents are signified by their initials:

JJM: Managing Editor John Jackson Miller

BWF: Projects Editor Brent Frankenhoff

JG: Associate Editor Joyce Greenholdt

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Bill Seley

18060 E. County Rd. 250 N.
Charleston, IL 61920

Lately in *CBG* I've read about all that needs to be done to help the CBLDF: give money, give time, and give art. I'm planning to attend the Chicago comicon (or Wizard World '99, if you prefer) this year and, since I always get many autographs at the show, I thought maybe I could get a comic book signed by all the creators I meet and donate it to the CBLDF for its auction. My thought was that I could get everyone to sign the *Free Speeches* one-shot Oni Press released earlier this year. My real question is: How would be the best way to give this to the CBLDF so that it could be auctioned?

Speaking of conventions, I thought it would be appropriate to give some advice to con-goers on how to best enjoy the con. The following is a list of ideas that can improve the quality of the experience:

1. Wear comfortable shoes. This is very important, since you will be on the convention floor for up to eight hours. Sandals are a bad idea, since they tend to chafe. I would suggest some nice broken-in tennis shoes.

2. Wear light clothes. A T-shirt and jeans are a good choice, since it tends to get very hot in the convention hall with the crowd, even with the air-conditioning going full blast.

3. Don't bring too much. Remember you will have to lug all that stuff the whole day. If you bring a backpack or a

tote bag, be sure that they are properly adjusted so as not to chafe. I bring a small luggage cart, big enough to carry two short boxes. If you do this, you will have to be careful that it is not too heavy, is in good working order, you don't run over anyone's foot with it, and keep it out of the way when you are in lines or at a booth.

4. Always get to the door early if you want to avoid the rush of people as they go in. This also goes for the autograph lines.

5. When you go to a line for a signing, always go to the end. Don't cut. This is rude and ruins the day for other attendees. At most lines there will be either a con staff person or, at bigger booths, the company will have someone tell you who's doing the signing, where the end is, and whether it is capped.

5A. Always have your comics out of the bags and ready to be signed so that the line can go as quickly as possible.

5B. Ask the staffer the total number of autographs allowed per person. If there is no limit, be reasonable; don't slap down a 6" stack. If you have more comics, just go through the line two or three times.

5C. I started bringing a small hand-held fan last year. It is handy when drying signatures so they don't smear. (This is the worst — to get home and find the comic book you wanted signed by your favorite artist with the

ink smeared.) This also makes a good fan to cool off with while you're waiting in line. I found mine at Wal-Mart in Sporting Goods for \$1.50 plus another \$1 for the two AA batteries, and it worked wonders.

6. If you have a cart, when you go to dealers, try to pull it out of the way. That way everyone has room to look at the dealer's wares.

7. If you plan on eating at the convention, bring at least \$10. Eating at the convention is expensive. I prefer to eat a good breakfast before and then have a big dinner that night. I also bring a bottle of water, so that I won't get thirsty.

8. And have a good time. Don't let rude people you may meet at the con ruin your day.

[BWF: Thanks! We have run similar lists ourselves in the past, but the points bear reiteration from time to time, both for new convention attendees and as a reminder for long-time attendees.

As for the CBLDF donation, you can stop by its booth at the convention and ask. Executive Director Chris Oarr is at most shows and can answer your questions quickly. If he's not available, his other staffers should be able to help you.

By the way, it wasn't necessary to send your letter Priority Mail. It was almost 10 times as expensive as a regular stamp would have been, and letters from your area usually get to us quickly. If it was an

(Continues on Page 16)

For Art's Sake

By Chris Smigiano





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she can soar through the heavens
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Oh, So?

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attempt to be as timely as e-mail and ensure publication, rest assured that we don't give precedence to one delivery system over another.]

Randy P. Cabe

127 Davis Dr.
Cartersville, GA 30120

It infuriates me to hear people refuse to take responsibility for their actions. The mother complaining about the Austin Powers doll is a prime example. If she didn't know what the character was about, she shouldn't have bought it without finding out. If she did know, she has no one to blame but herself for exposing her son to something she thought was inappropriate. This was not the fault of Toys "R" Us or Todd McFarlane's company.

While I was saddened about the recent school shootings, I think new gun control legislation is a useless knee-jerk reaction. Those kids broke several existing gun laws, and adding more will not help the victims. Why must the Constitution get trampled every time a tragedy occurs? Freedom of religion, the right to bear arms, freedom of the press, the right to pursue happiness — all are easy targets for people who want things their way and their way only.

I'm a conservative by nature and religion, and agendas of both the right and left concern me. I don't push my God down your throat; don't cram your agenda down mine.

To sum it up — take some personal responsibility, people!

If Frank Miller wants to sign me up for the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, ask him to send me some information.

[JG: In all fairness to the woman who objected to the Austin Powers doll, she didn't buy it. As I recall the news story, her son saw the doll in a toy store and pressed the button to hear the doll speak.]

BWF: The CBLDF is sponsoring a membership drive this year. For \$25, members receive a membership card with art by Frank Miller that gives them access to special CBLDF events at various conventions. The first such event is an inaugural members' ball at Chicago. The host will be Frank Miller and there are scheduled appearances by Kevin Smith, George Pérez, Kurt Busiek, and other creators who have supported the fund in the past. The event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., July 17, at the Diplomat Room of the Hyatt O'Hare.

A similar member reception is planned for San Diego. Co-hosts are Miller and Neil Gaiman. Details are pending.

To join the CBLDF, you can sign up at any convention at which the group has a booth or by sending \$25 to Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 693, Northampton, MA 01061. You can check the group's website at www.cbldf.org.

Robert Moraes

If you ask Marvel readers who their favorite magic or supernatural character is from the Marvel universe, responses can range from Dracula and Werewolf ("by Night") to Blade and Hannibal King, to name just a few. My own favorite from this genre is not a creature that

came from magic or the supernatural, but a creature that came from the knowledge of science used for all the wrong reasons: the Frankenstein creature.

When Marvel brought him into its universe, it was pretty much based on Mary Shelley's book. At the end of the book, the creature was last seen floating on an iceberg, vanishing into the night. When Marvel picked up the story, the Frankenstein creature was found in a tomb of ice which was melted and he was revived. But the creature's life continued to be filled with suffering and loneliness. Some tried to use him to commit crimes, while others wanted to study him to find out how Frankenstein had given him life. But the creature wanted nothing except to be left alone and live out his existence (no matter how long that was) away from civilization.

His most recent appearance was in *Spider-Man Unlimited* #21. At the end of that story, the creature had finally found a friend who would not go on to betray him: Peter Parker. Today, the creature is still wandering the woodlands in Europe, and it may be only a matter of time before some writer decides to have him appear in another Marvel story.

I would like to see him appear in the Marvel novels some time in the future. The Frankenstein creature is a complex, tragic character, and that can always be the basis for a great story.

[The Frankenstein story has been something of an ongoing icon in comics, in part due to the creature's existence in public domain. In fact, Don Glut provided an entire chapter on the topic, "Frankenstein Meets the Comics," in The Comic-Book Book, originally published in 1973 (too early to do much more than mention the Marvel version) and rereleased last year by our own Krause Publications. (Check out the ad on Page XX.)]

Matt Levin

Walking Man Comics
123 Elm St.
Hatfield, MA 01038

I don't usually like to pick 'em on the "strength" of their previews, but this is an easy one: *Batman: Harley Quinn* from DC, due out in August.

I have seen four panels: they look fine. I've seen a color repro of the cover: run a photo of that cover in *CBG* and that alone ought to make this a best-seller.

I've seen its pedigree: written by Paul Dini and illustrated by Yvel Guichet and Aaron Sowd, with that Alex Ross cover of *Clown Prince and Consort*.

Are my hopes too high? I don't think so. I'm bettin' this is a bigtime winner!

Richard M. Brown

2326 Cabet
Detroit, MI 48209

This is a letter in strong support of Darren Smith's letter in *CBG* #1336. Many of us veteran collectors are tired of these twisted, psychotic "heroes." As far as the Silver Age keeping our attention for three years, Gary Carter, Jerry Bails, Bob Crestohl, and I remain fascinated by the 1960s comics to this very day. I never gave up on the Legion; the depressing "reinterpretation" of the 30th century gave up on me.

Artists who create large full-page "pin-up" books without a coherent plot make us feel
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Oh, So?

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ripped off. Comic books made us feel good, prepared to embrace the future! Not to embrace characters as confused as many on the wilder talk shows. The Marvel vs. DC crossovers allowed us to ponder the fond question of our youth: Which heroes are better?

Comic books with dismal art, disturbing plots, variant covers, long serialization, and high prices are destroying our field more than "bank robbing stories." Funny, isn't it? The original Superman, Captain Marvel, Batman, and Spider-Man sold a huge number of comic books! Go back



Allen J. Schuler
7506 Appletree Way
Louisville, KY 40228

In the interests of comic-book history and the history of comic-book artists, I have a query for Mark Evanier, who seems to know things about everyone or can find them out, if he doesn't. Who was Jack Keller and what happened to him?

This much I know: Keller was the Kid Colt artist for what seemed like forever — or what passed for forever, when I was an adolescent. Every new issue and every reprint that surfaced at the time had Keller on *Colt* until around 1967. Then, he just disappeared. Boom. Gone.

Almost all of Marvel's big-gun super-hero artists (except for Steve Ditko) in the early 1960s drew Westerns. Jack Kirby did. Dick Ayers. Don Heck. Gene Colan. Jack Keller just did Kid Colt. His work seemed then and still looks now, upon recent review, competent and lively comic-book art, on a par with Dick Ayers.

Did Keller choose to keep himself out of super-hero work for Marvel, or did Stan Lee make that decision? Did he quit Marvel, get forced out, or, like Joe Maneely, die?

I've never seen mention of him in any fan forum. It would be wonderful, if Evanier or anyone else could enlighten us Marvel Western fans about this Marvel mainstay.

[A cursory check seemed to indicate Keller died in the 1960s. However, the more we checked, the less sure we became. Included here is a sample panel from a strange Kid Colt story from *Wild Western* #26 (Feb 53), "Code of Honor!" In the course of the story, Kid Colt

to basics!

Kelvin Childs
14400 Nadine Dr.
Rockville, MD 20853

Mark Evanier's musings about the creation of Supergirl (#1332) made sense, as far as they went. I remember those stories fondly and agree that the early stories by Otto Binder and Jim Mooney had a charm and innocence that makes them stand above the work done by other hands. And I agree that, somehow, these gentlemen found a special combination with a timeless appeal that has yet to be replicated.

As an adult, however, there's one thing about the Supergirl premise that bothers me. It's the idea that Superman, upon meeting his only sur-

(Continues on Page 20)

think he's killed the little boy and becomes suicidal, "an object of pity and scorn."

Your hunch was right, however, when it came to a good source for additional information. Mark Evanier wrote us:

"I dunno a whole heap about Jack Keller and, after checking with the doctor, Jerry Bails, I know only a bit more. He got into comics around 1942 and worked for Quality, Hillman, Lev Gleason, and a couple of even smaller publishers before settling down to his two main accounts, which were Charlton and Marvel. (Oh, yeah — he reportedly did a little art assisting on the *Spirit* newspaper strip, so it's probable/possible that this very publication has reprinted some of his handiwork there.)

"He worked for Marvel from the early '50s until around 1967, hitting most of their Western comic books like *Rawhide Kid* and especially *Kid Colt*, *Outlaw*. He was also working intermittently for Charlton throughout that period on race car comics like *Teenage Hotrod-ders* and *Hot Rods and Racing Cars*, plus some of their Western titles. After '67, he turned up mainly at Charlton. In fact, the only non-Charlton work of his I know of since then was a filler piece for DC's *Hot Wheels* comic book and some work on a knock-off called *Mod Wheels* that Western/Gold Key put out.

"As one can see, racing cars and Westerns were his specialty. He did precious little in his career that didn't fall into one category or another, and he seems to have shown no interest in or flair for anything else. After around '73 or '74, when those two genres disappeared from the newsracks, so did the art of Jack Keller.

"I have no idea if he's still with us. Maybe someone oughta start up a comic called *Drag-Racing Cowboys*. If Jack Keller's still alive, he'll be in it."

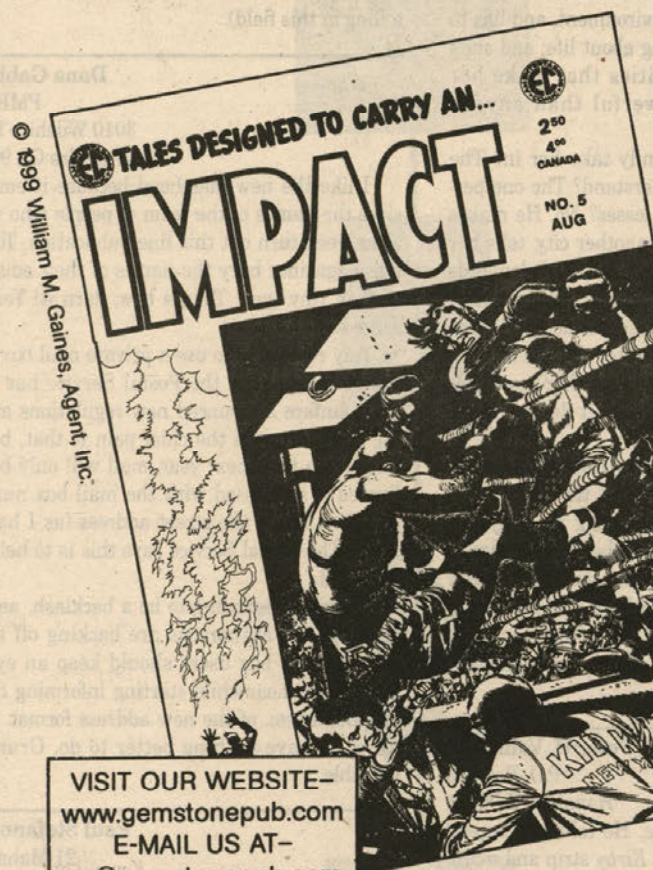




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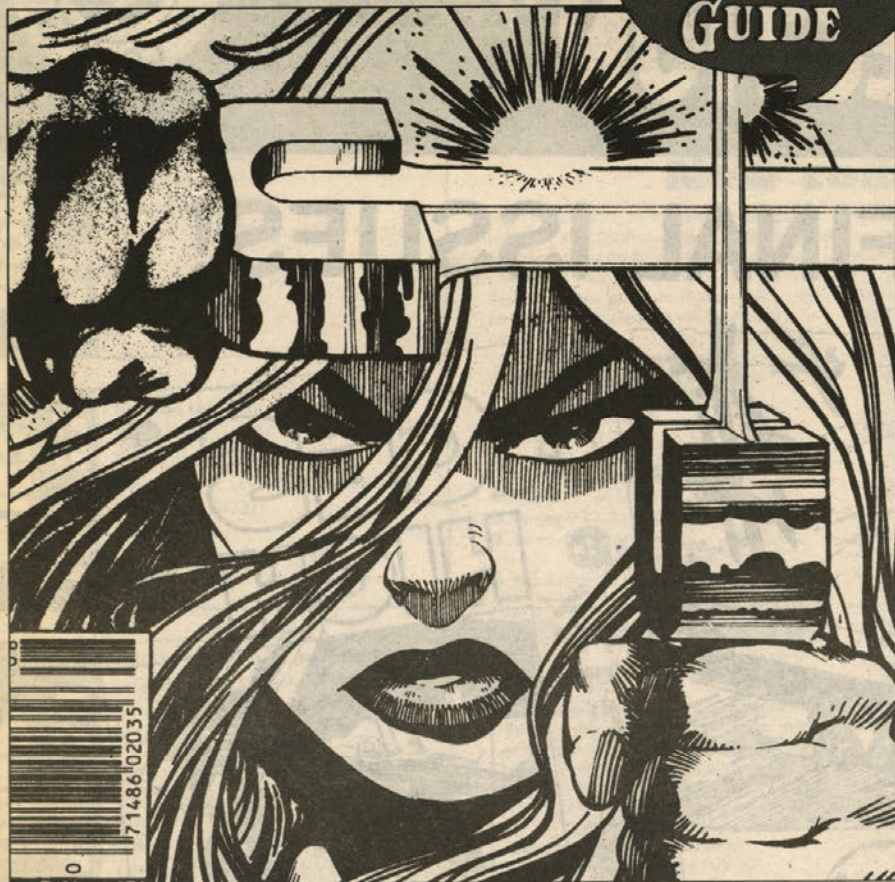
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Robert E. Howard moves to Cross Plains

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Oh, So?

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living relative — indeed, the only other surviving citizen of his whole civilization — dumps her in an orphanage.

I'll admit, I didn't give this any thought when I was a kid. But isn't it a cruel and irresponsible thing for Superman to do? Here's a girl who is at that awkward age who needs, even more than most typical teen-agers, loving guidance. She's faced the trauma of losing her whole world and having her parents die horribly; she comes to a wholly alien environment, and has to learn absolutely everything about life; and she's developing special abilities that make her stronger and more powerful than anyone around.

And does her only family take her in? The one person who could understand? The one person who shares the same losses? No. He makes her live with strangers in another city, tells her to pretend to be a mousy twerp, and demands that she never reveal who she is and what she can do, because it would undermine the life he has built for himself. No matter that he dressed it up in the need for her to master her powers. It still reads like a rejection and it doesn't make Superman look like such a nice guy.

Sure, the writers and the readers wanted to have a Supergirl but not upset the status quo. And plenty of people, including me, enjoyed those stories. But does this bother anyone else?

[Heck, Don and I read those stories when they were coming out, we were adults, and the sort of thing you cite is exactly the sort of approach that led to our dumping a lot of this material from our collection.]

Peter H. Vollmann
P.O. Box 813
Hanalei, HI 96714

He did the impossible. He followed legend Alex Raymond on the *Rip Kirby* strip and maintained a consistent quality throughout his more than 40-year-long tenure on the strip. John Prentice's work was always excellent, even in the constriction of the ever-smaller newspaper strip size. Whenever an assistant took over for him, there was a sharp decline in the quality of the art. Keep in mind that Prentice was working in Raymond's style and kept it up until the end.

Not many Americans saw the strip in the last decade or so, and I presume without the considerable worldwide popularity of *Rip Kirby*, King Features would have canceled it long ago. Thanks to the excellent *Strips* publication (American Publishing Corp., P.O. Box 17, McLean, VA 22101), I was able to follow it in the past years and found it still very entertaining. I hope there will be a resurgence of interest in the adventure strip — maybe even a collection of Raymond's and Prentice's work.

Nat Gertler

In the fine *Tony's Tips!* column in *CBG* #1339, Tony describes the talented Jim Steinman as "the writer-producer behind Meat Loaf's *Bat out of Hell*." This description is somewhat misleading; Todd Rundgren produced and engineered that album. Steinman wrote the material and was writer-producer of the relatively recent

sequel to that album (*Bat out of Hell II: Back into Hell*). I know this is a fairly minor point, but, since Tony and I both work in a field where proper crediting creative folks has become important, it's worth correcting.

Besides, it gives me an excuse to mention that my Alaskan comics fans can see me at a signing at the Diamond Center location of the Bosco's chain in Anchorage on July 30, from 4 to 6 p.m. My fans should also come to Comic-Con International: San Diego to talk to me and get my autograph at the About Comics table. My enemies should come to Comic-Con to gloat, when I lose the Eisner for Talent Deserving Wider Recognition (as if that's an award which could not be fairly given to 90% of the artists and writers toiling in this field).

Dana Gabbard

PMB 362
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Los Angeles CA 90010

I like the new masthead because it emphasizes the names of the team of people who week after week turn out this fine publication. Too often magazines bury the names of their editorial staff in tiny type. Take a bow, darn it! You deserve it.

Any readers who use a private mail box may not be aware that the Postal Service has with little fanfare announced new regulations affecting these. For me the chief pain is that, beginning some time next year, mail will only be delivered if addressed with the mail box number on a line above the street address (as I have it here). The Postal Service says this is to help deter fraud.

There is beginning to be a backlash, and already postal authorities are backing off a bit. Private mail box users should keep an eye on things but meanwhile starting informing correspondents, etc. of the new address format. As if all of us have nothing better to do. Grumble, grumble.

Paul Stefanowicz
21 Mahan St.
Tenafly, NJ 07670

Yes, there is new material out there for the older comics reader. These past weeks, DC has released *JSA Secret Files*, as well as *JSA* #1. I found them both excellent reading, since there is a part of the DC universe in which any reader can immerse himself or herself.

JSA Secret Files provides us with profiles of the members of the new team, as well as a background story. This tale is both heroic and tragic. *JSA* #1 finds us at the funeral of an original member, but all is not as it seems. James Robinson has the stories moving swiftly yet suspensefully, and the art all around is great. I am hoping that this is not just another group of heroes thrown together. We may just find a team we can actually care about!

One other item I must mention — *Alter Ego* (Vol. 3) #1 arrived today. One of my fellow fans asked me how I liked it, and I had to say it may have been the best fan magazine I have seen in years. Roy Thomas and his collaborators deserve a great big slap on the back for this effort. It has so many interesting stories and a neat layout, to boot, including sidebars and illustrations by some of fandom's all-time luminaries.

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- 2 Dragonball Z.....Pioneer
- 3 Ranma 1/2.....Viz
- 4 Mobile Suit Gundam.....Bandai
- 5 Neon Genesis Evangelion.....A.D. Vision
- 6 Fushigi Yugi/Mysterious Play.....Pioneer
- 7 Tenchi Muyo.....Pioneer
- 8 Vision of Escaflowne.....Bandai
- 9 Saber Marionette J.....Bandai
- 10 Slayers.....Central Park Media

Source: Comics Retailer Magazine

May 1999

- 1 Pokémon: Pikachu Shocks Back #3.....Viz
- 2 Sailor Moon #8.....Mixx
- 3 Dragonball Z Part 2 #6.....Viz
- 4 Oh My Goddess! 4th Goddess #1.....Dark Horse
- 5 Dragonball Part Two #3.....Viz
- 6 Gunsmith Cats: Bean Bandit #5.....Dark Horse
- 7 Blade of the Immortal #33.....Dark Horse
- 8 Ranma 1/2 Part Eight #2.....Viz
- 9 Shadow Lady: Eyes/Stranger #1.....Dark Horse
- 10 Solar Lord #3.....Image

Source: Preorders to Diamond Comic Distributors

May 1999

- 1 Ranma 1/2 Hard Battle Box Set.....Viz
- 2 Fist of the North Star Vol. 2.....Manga Ent.
- 3 Dragonball Z Namek Saga Box Set.....Pioneer
- 4 Dragonball Z Saiyan Conflict Box Set.....Pioneer
- 5 Ranma 1/2... Mirror Mirror.....Viz

Source: Preorders to Diamond Comic Distributors

A.D. Vision

Metal Angel Marie will be re-released in dubbed format in mid-September. When an amateur mad scientist tries to build a robot duplicate of his dream girl, Marie is the result. However, he built her so well that Marie has a mind of her own and all the questions each of us has about life. Where did I come from? Why am I here? Why do I look just like that girl over there? Well, we don't all have to worry about that one, but Marie does! The 90-minute tape is priced at \$19.98.

Power DoLLS 2 continues the adventures of the elite Detachment of Limited Line Service task force and their advanced combat robots. Peace has finally been declared in the Terran War, but a new civil war is already brewing. When a top-secret Power Loader shows up in enemy hands, only the DoLLS stand a chance of saving the day. This 35-minute tape will be available in late September for \$14.98 dubbed and \$24.95 subtitled.

Central Park Media

In **Knights of Ramune: True Destination**, Cacao allows herself to be captured in hopes of discovering the Warrior's real intentions. The 60-minute tape is scheduled for mid-September release for \$24.99 dubbed and \$29.99 subtitled.

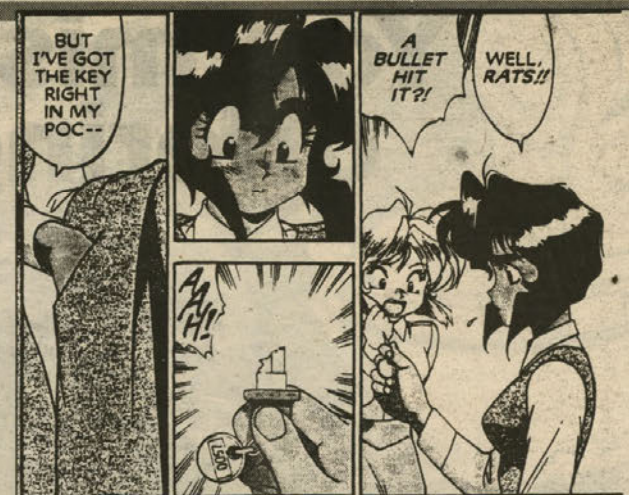
Patlabor: The Mobile Police: The TV Series Vol. 7 takes the squad to the Tokyo International Labor show to see the new economy model Patlabor. Five new episodes for \$29.99. The subtitled 120-minute tape is scheduled for mid-September.

Coming from the adults-only Anime 18 line in late September is the DVD-ROM release of **Urotsukidoji II: Legend of the Demon Womb**. Determined to enslave the world, a mad scientist searches for a monster with the power to slay the Overfiend. The 88-minute disc is priced at \$29.99.

The Right Stuf International

Volumes 3 and 4 of the dubbed version of **The Irresponsible Captain Tylor** are scheduled for late August and late September release, respectively. Each tape contains three episodes of the science-fiction comedy series. The 75-minute tapes are priced at \$19.95 each.

#1-7 available now ... Reviewed by Joyce Greenholdt



Gunsmith Cats: Bean Bandit Dark Horse

Rally Vincent runs a gun shop in Chicago and, to make ends meet, she's also a bounty hunter. Her partner, Minnie-May, prefers grenades to guns. With a combination of fancy shooting and mad-bomber tactics (and a little help from their friends), the pair are usually more than a match for their criminal targets.

The last couple of mini-series have taken a darker turn, however. Rally has been tangling, with less than complete success, with the producers of a nasty drug called Kerasine and locking horns with a notorious getaway driver known as Bean Bandit (from creator Ken Sonoda's anime *Riding Bean*). In the nine-issue *Bean Bandit* mini-series, Bean has challenged Rally to a race of sorts — if Rally wins, he'll quit accepting drug-related jobs.

Action-movie fans will probably enjoy all of Dark Horse's *Gunsmith Cats* material. And anyone who's ever had to drive through Chicago will get a laugh out of the 32 pages, not intended for children frequent high-speed chases on nearly empty expressways.

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Arrow Comics: Evolving empires from monkeys



By Gary St. Lawrence

"Disney started an empire with a mouse. Maybe we're starting ours with a monkey."

That's what Editor in Chief Randy Zimmerman said when asked where Arrow Comics is and where it's going.

"We didn't expect a little monkey comic book like *Spank* to take off as it has," Zimmerman said. "Granted, part of the attraction is the sexual connotation, and part of it is the direct approach *Spank* takes to people and situations. But a big part of it, I think, is that, when he finds himself in trouble, *Spank* says what all of us would love to say and he gets away with it."

Spank is one very opinionated monkey, too — which suits Zimmerman just fine, since the creator vents through his primate throwback to classic underground comix.

"Anything and everything will be covered in this new monthly humor series, as we reach back to the days of underground comix with *Spank's* poignant opinions," Zimmerman said. "Although it's intended for anyone with a sense of humor, *Spank* covers warn that the series will include some adult subject matter and a banner stating:

WARNING!
THIS BOOK CONTAINS
ACTUAL OPINIONS.
CRANIAL STIMULATION
MAY DEVELOP!

"I warn everyone that, when the cover says, 'Created by Randy Zimmerman,' it's truly a creator's credit, and not just a suggestion. But there's a little of me in his brain-dead cousin Shock, too. So it's not all just me being angry."

In addition to a tirade on the world of comics, *Spank the Monkey* #1 features a three-page rant about Jack Kevorkian, and there's a running line on the comings and goings of Arrow's hometown, Flint, Mich.

From Oz to fairy tales. But off-the-wall comics aren't Arrow's only niche. Starting in August, Arrow delves into the manga genre with a new comics adaptation of *Puss in Boots* by Bill Bryan, artist of Arrow's *Oz*, *Dark Oz*, and *Land of Oz*.

"Bill simply loves drawing comics, so, if someone doesn't get him a script fast enough, he'll go out and draw projects on his own," Zimmerman said. "That's what he



Among Arrow's releases are *The War of the Worlds: The Memphis Front* and *Descendants of Toshin*, its first manga title. The company's line also extends to super-heroes with *August*, barbarian adventure with *Korvus*, and fantasy with *The Land of Oz*.

did with *Puss in Boots*. It's a faithful adaptation of the fairy tale. He did the same thing last year with *Wobblebug*, a one-shot spin-off from the *Dark Oz* mythos. He's amazing. He can turn an issue around in two weeks any time he wants to."

But Bryan's about to get even faster and garner more attention when, starting with *Land of Oz* #6, he'll team with inker William Messner-Loebs. Zimmerman said the two are old friends, and, since the word from Messner-Loebs is that he's "having an absolute ball" on the series, it appears he might work with Arrow for a while, which should help draw attention to the Arrow line.

Not going away. "Over the past year, we've put out 34 products," Zimmerman said, "so we have a nice impressive library, but nobody's seen it. We're thinking of putting out an ad that says, 'We're not going away, so you might as well support us.' I think that would even be a great bumper sticker."

A summer full of releases and the inception of Arrow Manga seems to bear this out. Arrow already released its first manga title, *The Descendants of Toshin* by

Cantrelle Riley and Tiamat Studios, which Zimmerman said is the ideal example of what Arrow is out to accomplish with this company. "It's a high-quality product, very much the personal creation and effort of talented and dedicated folks out to work in the art form they love as unhindered as possible."

In July, the feline bounty hunter *Miss Chevious* returns in a four-issue mini-series by Seth Graves with stories from before her former "Tales of the Aniverse" timeline.

War of the Worlds: The Memphis Front is based on the original H.G. Wells novel, but now the Martians are back and they're prepared for a full-scale invasion of Earth.

In *Korvus*, writer Mick Fennette, artist Abdul Rashid, and inker Tim Dzon tell a tale of violence, magic, and horror — of a savage emperor who gathers his allies to carve through legions of demonic enemies in a desperate attempt to save his empire.

***Spank* skips September.** In September, there's *Spank the Monkey Skip-Month* #1, a not-an-anthology title in which *Spank* decides to take a month off (allowing



Zimmerman to catch up). Since *Spank's* a comics retailer, he's going to showcase upcoming Arrow projects and people. The skip-month comics won't be published regularly but rather, as Zimmerman called it, as a "whenever" title.

"We had to shut down our anthology title because it just wasn't making enough money," Zimmerman said. "We tried *Arrow Spotlights* for a while, but, no matter what genre we offered in the anthology format, it just wasn't catching on, and the numbers kept coming in the same."

When launching Arrow Comics, Zimmerman said he, his creators, and publisher Scott Moore wanted their products to look as though "they came from a full-scale company when we started, not from a home office and garage production shop while maintaining an incredibly low overhead."

"Once we reach the break-even point on an issue, there's a direct, even split of the profits back to the creators. We're all about the creators. Arrow's not in this business to become a huge conglomerate company. We're interested in printing comics that we want to do, comics that we love. We're not looking to be the next Marvel."



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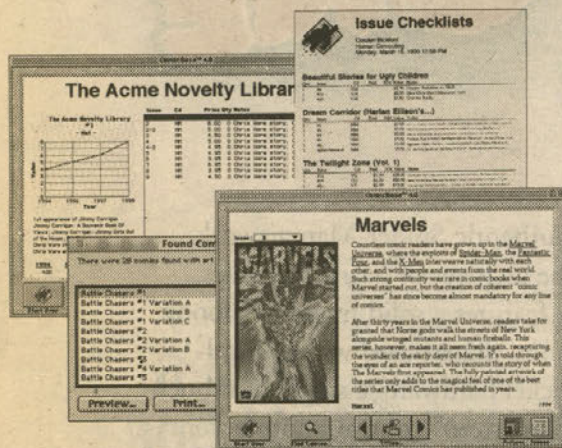


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Condition Good to Very Good

1965 Marvel Rawhide Kid Issue #50
DC Jimmy Olsen #40
DC Jimmy Olsen #42
DC Jimmy Olsen #44
DC Jimmy Olsen #54
DC Jimmy Olsen #32
DC Jimmy Olsen #61
DC Jimmy Olsen #65
DC Jimmy Olsen #68
DC Jimmy Olsen #71
DC Jimmy Olsen #78
DC Jimmy Olsen #80
DC Jimmy Olsen #87
DC Jimmy Olsen #90
DC Jimmy Olsen #118
DC Jimmy Olsen #125
DC Jimmy Olsen #130
DC Jimmy Olsen #132
DC Jimmy Olsen #154
Modern E Man #9
DC Green Lantern 1962, #12
DC Doom Patrol Aug. 1965, #113
DC Adam Strange Adventures Aug. #225
Gold Key Tarzan #164, 1967 (Fair)
Marvel Strange Tales #182 Feathery A Strange
Marvel Hulk #172
Gold Key Phantom Issue #17, 1966
Marvel Thor #186
DC Worlds Finest #220
DC Worlds Finest #192
DC Worlds Finest #186
DC Worlds Finest #178
DC Worlds Finest #174
DC Worlds Finest #171
DC Worlds Finest #104
DC Worlds Finest #134
DC Worlds Finest #140
DC Worlds Finest #130
DC Worlds Finest #167
DC Hawkman #7
DC Wonder Woman #210
Marvel Conan #1
Marvel Conan #2
Marvel Conan #4
Marvel Conan #11
Marvel Conan #15
DC Action Comics #100

DC Action Comics #1 Repro
Marvel Avengers #103
Marvel Beware? #4
Classics Illustrated Around The World
Modern E Man #10
Sharp #2 Issue 2 c. 1946, Asst. stories
Avon Cow Punisher #3, 1947
DC Fighting Forces Issue #46
DC Fighting Forces Issue #61
Fawcett Hop A Long Cassidy Lot Consists of
Charlton unusual tales #45, 1964
Dell Tomb of Ligeia, 1965 (no back cover)
DC Manhunter #91 V-Good
DC Manhunter #91 V-Good
DC Manhunter #93 V-Good
Marvel X-Men #60 Very Good
King Flash Gordon Issue #1 Good
King Flash Gordon Issue #2 Good
King Flash Gordon Issue #3 Good
King Flash Gordon Issue #4 Good
King Flash Gordon Issue #5 Good
DC 1946 Sensational Comics (Wonder Woman)
Good
DC Brave & Bold Issue #128 Good
Marvel #32 of Greatest comics featuring FF
Good
Marvel Howard the Duck #5 Good
Marvel Howard the Duck #5 Good
Marvel Howard the Duck #6 Good
Marvel Howard the Duck #4 Good
Marvel Howard the Duck #3 Good
Marvel Marvel Tales #3 Good
Marvel Marvel Tales #13 Good
Marvel Patsy Walker #121 Good
Marvel Patsy Heady #108 Good
DC Sgt Rock #299 Good
DC Life w/Blinky
Dell 1945 Looney Tunes
Dell Feb. Looney Tunes
Dell March, Looney Tunes
Dell Jan, Looney Tunes
Dell June, Looney Tunes
Dell Looney Tunes
Gold Key Capt. Nice #1
1950's United Feature, Fritzie's & Ritzie Lot
Issues #35, 22, 18, 17, 14, 4
1950's Blondie King Comics #52, 165

1961 Halden Dennis Menace
1959 Dell Beetle Bailey Jan
1950's ? Marvel Tessie Typist #8
1940's Agst Kings Features Sparkler #69
1959 Dell Tubby (Lil Lulu) Nov
1967 Ha Ha Funnies July
1947 Big Shot Asst. Comics #75
1905 Famous Funnies #151
Marvel George & Judy #21, 1948
1920's Dime Store Comics Asst - Secret Service
#1-5
1940's Woody Wood Pecker #374
1947 Disney #9
1940 Porky Pig, Sept/Oct

ASST. GOLDEN SILVER AGE HORROR COMICS

Mostly VG

1960's Dennis The Menace Surprise Package, 1957
1973 Archie "Pop" #276
1960 Dell Felix, Oct, Dec
1959 Dell Disney Christmas Parade (no back cover)
1953 Tom & Jerry Mag
1960 Charlton Mysteries of Unexplored Worlds, March
1953 Dell Tom & Jerry, 1953, Oct
1953 Dell Popeye #113
1950's Archie, Super Duck #45
1950's Dell Looney Tunes #141
1950's Dell Disney (ripped cover) #18 of Comics & Stories
1950's Dell Giant Beach Party (Disney)
1950's Dell Disney Books From Holland
1954 Dell Vacation Parade Carl Barks
1950's Dell Scrooge Visits Disneyland (torn cover)
1950's Dell (cover ripped) Donald Duck #66
1960's Archie Betty & Veronica #191
1950's Archie Betty & Me #31
1960's Harvey Lil Audrey #113 (slight graffiti on cover)
1960's Harvey Caspers Ghostland #65
1960's Harvey Casper #164
Archie Life w/Archie #132
1953 Dell Tom & Jerry Christmas 1953 Carl Barks Author
1962 Dell Top Cat (some graffiti)

1964 Harvey Sad Sack #46
1950's Dell Donald Duck Fun Book #11
1960's Halden Dennis The Menace #3 1960's
Archie Life with Archie #49
1950's Roly Poly Comics #10
1947 Popsicle Pete Promo
1950's Capt & The Kids #22
1950's Dell Oswald Rabbit #102
1943 Funny Book #6 Asst. stories
1966 King, Blondie #164
1961 Dell, Quick Draw McGraw, March
1960 Dell, MGM's (Tom & Jerry Mousketeers)
1960's Dell, Huckleberry Hound, Nov-Dec
1950's Dell, Woody Woodpecker, "New Funnies" (damaged)
1954 No cover, Donald Duck Dell
1940 Felix VG, June/July
1964 Dell Ch DC Crashcop, 1964
1957 Nancy Dell, Sept
1961 Charlton Space War, Oct.
1960's Dell Asst. Goofy Titles
1950's Tillie the Toiler #150
1950's Asst Daffy Titles
1940's Dell Brownies Asst Titles
? DC Mutt & Jeff #64, 35
1950's Dell Little Lulu Nov.
1960's Harvey Sad Sack, Funny Friends #23
1960's Dell Little Lulu Lot, July, Aug, Nov
Tip Top 1950's Lil Abner Lot #57, 102
1960's Dell Books #686, 531, 649
1970's Archie Life w/Archie #107
1960's Halden Dennis The Menace #1
1950's Quality Egbert #4
1952 Dell Looney Tunes October
1970 Archie Little Archie #61
1960's Sad Sack #39
1954 Dell Disney Vacation #5
1960's? Harvey Dagwood #61
1950's Winnie Winkle #94
1952 Looney Tunes #146, Dell
1952 Looney Tunes #132, Dell
1945, Looney Tunes, Oct 1945 Dell
1950 Dell Looney Tunes
1955 Dell Looney Tunes
1950's? Atlas Homer Ghost, Nov
1954 Dell Looney Tunes, September
1952 Dell Looney Tunes, December
1950's Dell Feb. Looney Tunes
1953 Dell Looney Tunes, May

1955 Dell Looney Tunes, April
1961 Dell, June
1960's Dell, Aug
1960's Dell, March
1950's Dell, Sgt Bilko presents Pvt Duberman
Marvel #143 Millie the Model Good (5 copies)
Marvel Sgt. Fury #119 Good
Marvel Sgt. Fury #119 Good
Marvel Sgt. Fury #96 Fair (2 copies)
Marvel Sgt. Fury #96 Good (5 copies)
Marvel Doc Savage #4 Fair
DC Entire story of Knightfall, 1993 sold as lot
Marvel Special Edition #12 SGT Fury VG
Marvel Special Edition #12 SGT Fury VG
Marvel Special Edition #12 SGT Fury VG
Marvel Special Edition #12 SGT Fury VG
Marvel Special Edition #12 SGT Fury (water damaged)
Marvel Special Edition
Marvel-Marvel Mystery #77, 1946 Good
Quality Black Hawk #29
1950's Our gang comics, January
1950's Krazy Kat 1952 #5
1945 Zoo Funnies #2
1960's Archie #218
Casper #9 Harvey 1960's
Dell Asst. Issues Beetle Bailey
1970 - On
Gold Key Grimms Ghost Stories #14 (6 copies)
Carlton Speed Buggy #5
Eternity I Love Lucy #2
Gold Key Bugs Bunny #174
Gold Key Richie Rich #28
Fawcett Dennis #13
Carlton Gazoo #3
Carlton Gazoo #3
Carlton Gazoo #3
Carlton Blondie #202
Harvey Richie Rich #27
Carlton Flintstones #28
Carlton Flintstones #28
Carlton Flintstones #28
Carlton Flintstones #28
Carlton Dino #20
DC Debbie's Dates #10
DC Blinks Buddies #12
DC Blinks Buddies #81
Western Smokey The Bear

Whitman Chip 'N Dale #16
Whitman Uncle Scrooge #140
Whitman Mickey Mouse #207
Carlton Pebbler #17
Whitman Donald Duck #12
Whitman Walt Disney Comics & Stories #12
Whitman Woodchucks #23
Harvey Blondie #156
Whitman 101 Dalmations Movie Adaptation
Harvey Spooky #147
Harvey Casper Ghostland #82
Blackthorne Flintstones #304
Blackthorne Betty Boop #1
Whitman Donald Duck Gold Helmet (Dynabrite)
Harvey Richie Rich #28
Whitman Daisy & Donald #43
Whitman Super Goof #57, 1980
Harvey Richie Rich #27
Amazing Heroes #42
Whitman Mickey Mouse #205
Harvey Richie Rich #241
Gold Key Scamp #15
Gold Key Scamp #15
Whitman Super Goof
Kitchens Sink Pheobe Pigeon People #1
Kitchens Sink Pheobe Pigeon People #2
Kitchens Sink Pheobe Pigeon People #2
Fawcett Dennis Menace Around World
Christmas 1971
Fawcett Dennis Menace #120
Gold Key Scamp #15 (2 copies)
Gold Key Scamp #15
Carlton Attack War Stories #27
Carlton Ghostly Tales #20
King Popeyes Career Goals Multi-Media Jobs, 4 of same in lot
Whitman Uncle Scrooge #98 (graffiti etc.)
Whitman Uncle Scrooge #99
Whitman Huey Dwey & Lucy #33
Fawcett Dennis The Menace #13
Fawcett Dennis The Menace Funbook 1975
Walt Disney Mickey & Goofy Explore Energy
Carlton Gazoo 1977
Carlton Dino #20
DC Debbie's Dates #10
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[Editor's Note: Items for this feature, which lists appearances in comics stores and lecture halls — not conventions — of writers, artists, and editors should be submitted as far in advance as possible.

The notices must be written — we cannot take these by telephone — and kept brief, preferably in the format used here.

Send to **Now Appearing**, c/o Comics Buyer's Guide, 700 E. State St., Iola, Wis. 54990 or fax it (again c/o CBG) to (715) 445-4087.]

July 18

Kane (WWF wrestler) at Metro Entertainment, 6 W. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, California 93101, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

August 3

Christopher Lee (actor, author, opera singer) at Funny Business, 660B Amsterdam Ave. (at 92nd St.), New York, New York 10025, from 2 to 4 p.m.

August 21

Mark Pacella (creator, *Tooth and Claw*) at Mile High Comics, 12591 Harbor Blvd., Garden Grove, California, from noon to 7 p.m.

Sept. 15

Mark Pacella (creator, *Tooth and Claw*) at Golden Apple, 7711 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, California, from 2 to 8 p.m.

— Basketball coach Bobby Knight

This is, more or less, my 400th *Tony's Tips!* column for *Comics Buyer's Guide*. You see, over the years, I've written a few *Tips* columns for special *CBG* publications, and these aren't included in the numbering sequence I use to keep track of this weekly feature.

There have also been occasions when my editors have edited an item or two out of the weekly columns for space considerations and then cut-and-pasted new columns from those bits and pieces. Naturally, I never adjusted the numbering to account for those, either. Ergo, more or less, happy anniversary to me.

The theme of this week's *CBG* is "Independents," and we could easily devote the entire newspaper to debating what the term means. I've talked to readers who think it means "everything other than DC and Marvel" and to readers who think it's the comics equivalent of the vanity press. I, of course, know exactly what an "independent" comic book is — but I'm not going to tell you. Because then I'd have to explain and justify my definition to you and, if I took the time to do that, I wouldn't have space to review the comic books I want to review this week.

Oh, stop whining. This column is now 400 weeks old. In human terms, that makes it really old, and, when you get to be really old, you also get to be old and crotchety. Fetch me my butt-pillow and a cold drink. I've got work to do here.

☛ **Cells** (\$2) was created and published by Scott Mills with the help of the Xeric Foundation. Set entirely in a Baltimore prison and told in a series of time-spanning vignettes, it's the story of two cellmates who are clearly long-term tenants of the Baltimore Department of Corrections. Mills tells little of his characters' earlier lives; his focus is on their relationship, which he reveals with humanity and subtlety. It's a moving tale, far bigger than its 21 pages and its digest-size format. It impressed me

enough to recommend it to you. Order from:

Scott Mills
P.O. Box 0345
Abingdon, MD 21009

In addition, you can view his (almost) daily comic strip and order his other mini-comics online at:

<http://www.bubbaandsmoot.com>

☛ **Clowny's** (\$2) and **"Please Don't Sue Me!" Comics** (50¢) are published by the Funny Book Institute. The former is a slightly-larger-than-digest ashcan about workers at a fast-food burger establishment; it's by Mike Churchill, Ken Wheaton, and Carey Killion. The latter is a standard mini-comic featuring a baker's dozen of comics-related cartoons by Wheaton. Of the two, **"Please Don't Sue Me!"** is the better. I smiled at every cartoon and chuckled out loud at several of them.

Clowny's has its moments, but it never quite comes together. The characters and premise aren't bad, but, as a whole, the ashcan lacks focus. The creators need to hone their skills before embarking on a full-size *Clowny's* comic book, and, of course, that's what fanzines and mini-comics allow one to do.

You can order either (or both) of these comics from:

The Funny Book Institute
783 Peck Rd.
Hilton, NY 14468

☛ Those wags at Moordam Comics and Slap Happy Comics gave me a copy of the delightfully mean-spirited **Comics Are Dead #1** (\$4.95), "64 pages of absolute truth" by Scott Roberts, Greg Hyland, George Broderick, and others. The contributors obviously love comics and the comics medium but they're not afraid to bare their teeth when discussing policies and situations they feel are holding back the art form and the industry.

Roberts is in particularly rare form, contributing 24 pages, including a "Patty Cake" tale. Hyland rhapsodizes about a favorite comic book of the 1960s: Dell's *Neutro*. (If memory serves me, as it has on occasion, I identified the artist of that comic book for Hyland at a recent Mid-Ohio-Con; it was drawn by Jack Sparling.) Broderick is represented by a nifty "Courageous Man" story and the thoughtful "Outside the Box."

Other contributors include Levi Krause, Chris Yambar, Jamie Cosley, D.J. Coffman, Dave Roman, David Yurkovich, Rich Koslowski (with a "3 Geeks" one-pager), Phil Hester, Ande Parks, Derf, John Green, and Brian Clopper. Yurkovich's "Life in the Faust Line" is a

hard-hitting two-pager, while Tony Isabella completists will have to buy *Comics Are Dead* just for my cameo appearance in Yambar's and Krause's "Adventures of Clem and Ray, Retailers at Large." Which I would have recommended *CBG* readers do even if they hadn't stroked me that way. Word to your mother.

You can likely buy *Comics Are Dead* from any of its creators at comics conventions, at truly elite comic-book shops, or, failing all else, by ordering a copy from:

Comics Are Dead
P.O. Box 1260
Youngstown, OH 44501

☛ **Pete the P.O.'d Postal Worker** is one of those properties that seems destined for greatness. I can't believe it hasn't already been optioned by Hollywood. It wouldn't be out of place among fare like *The Waterboy*. It's funny, outrageous, and even inspirational in the way its dangerously focused title hero makes sure the mail gets through — no matter what. My casting suggestion for the movie would be a completely unleashed Steve Martin.

I read *Pete* #6-9 (Sharkbait Press, \$2.95 each) the other day and enjoyed them thoroughly. Pete takes on organized crime, Freddy Krueger, and Jerry Springer. He delivers the mail, stands up for his beloved postal service, and manages to stop somewhat short of leveling the whole community as he does so. And, despite the belly laughs and the carnage, writer Marcus Pierce Jr. and artist Pete Garcia treat Pete with obvious affection.

I recommend this comic book to readers of all ages and, if you're on good terms with them, your friendly neighborhood postal workers. I gave the first five issues to the gang at the Medina Post Office, and they loved them.

All nine issues of *Pete* are available. If you can't get them from your local comics shop, you can order them directly from the publisher at:

Sharkbait Press
P.O. Box 11300-P
Costa Mesa, CA 92627-0300

The comics are \$2.95 each with a shipping and handling charge of \$3 per total order.

☛ **Whiteout**, the outstanding series by mystery author Greg Rucka and artist Steve Lieber, has been collected in a \$10.95 trade paperback by Oni Press, which published the original comic books. Let me tell you right now that you should set aside a hour or so to read this at one sitting. It's a page-turner — so much so that you'll get pretty cranky if anyone interrupts you while you're reading it. Tie the



dog, kids, and/or wife in the backyard with food and water, turn on the answering machine, and enter the fascinating and terrifying world of *Whiteout*.

We're talking the bottom of the world here, where a good but troubled U.S. marshal named Carrie Stetko must solve a murder before the Antarctic winter blows away any chance of bringing the killer to justice. There are betrayals, secrets, and more death waiting for her in the blinding cold — and no guarantee she will survive to close this case.

Rucka tells a darned good story. His portrayals of Stetko and the world in which she operates ring true. And he knows when to let the artist carry the story. Of course, he has a leg up in that regard, because artist Lieber is at his best with this kind of tale: real people, real places, real emotion, real excitement. It's the kind of pairing that makes you want to see more from the team, and a sequel to *Whiteout* is in the works.

Sudden observation: Lieber would not be out of place compared to artists like George Evans, Doug Wildey, and Al Williamson. Like them, he draws in a realistic and sometimes photographic style, but his figures and settings never seem frozen on the page. Even when he was drawing such material as the third-generation *Hawkman* series, I thought he was a good artist. Give him better material, and he rises to the occasion superbly.

I highly recommend *Whiteout* to teens, older readers, and especially to mystery readers who haven't previously found comics that captured their interest. This could be the one that wins them over — and that would be a very good thing.

Send comments on and review items for this column to: *Tony's Tips!*, P.O. Box 1502, Medina, OH 44258. You can also e-mail Tony at: tonyisa@ohio.net.

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23, 25, 42, 45-51 avg FN/VF
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57 (NM) 11.00
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28 (G) 4.00
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1 (VF) 9.00
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U.S. AIR FORCE
20 (VF) CFP
30 (VF+) CFP
VOYAGE
TO THE BOTTOM
OF THE SEA
3 (G) 2.00
5 (VG) 4.00
7 (F) 6.00
10 (VG+) 5.00

TRUE
56 (VG) 10.00
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15 (VG+) 16.00
16 (VG+) 15.00
19 (G) 7.50
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3 (G) 2.00
5 (VG) 4.00
7 (F) 6.00
10 (VG+) 5.00

UNCLE SCROOGE
24 (VG) 22.00
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32 (F) 29.00
34 (F+) 32.00
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38 (VF) 65.00
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SHOWCASE



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STEPHEN M. RUSSO

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ANIMATION STATION!

SHAZAM!: The Animated Series #1 (Featuring the first 6 episodes of The Lost 1980's Golden-Age Inspired Cartoon/2 hours)
SHAZAM!: The Animated Series #2 (Featuring 3 More episodes, plus 3 rare animated "Isis & The Freedom Force" Episodes/2 hours)
PLASTIC MAN COMEDY/ADVENTURE HOUR (Featuring 5 episodes of the rare 1970's Ruby-Spears Animated Series/90 minutes)
THE MIGHTY HEROES (Featuring 6 Adventures of the 1960's heroes, plus 2 "Plastic Man" episodes/90 minutes)
FAT ALBERT (Featuring the first 6 Episodes of the series/2 hours)
KING KONG CARTOONS #1 (Featuring 4 Shows of the 1960's Show/90 Minutes)
KING KONG CARTOONS #2 (Featuring 4 More Shows/90 Minutes)
SINBAD, Jr (Featuring 70 Minutes of this rare 1960's Cartoons!)
TV CARTOONS 1960's! (Featuring Hercules, Laurel & Hardy, Abbot & Costello, Mr. Magoo, Dodo-From Outerspace and other rare cartoons/2 hours)
LOST SUPERHERO SHOWS (Featuring rare 1970's Guest-Appearances of cult and Famous Heroes on Cartoon Shows-Including "The Lone Ranger"/2 hours)
MISSION: MAGIC (Featuring 4 episodes of the lost 1970's Rick Springfield Cartoons/90 minutes!)
HE-MAN: The Lost Pilot (Featuring "The Greatest Adventure of All!" 75-minute TV pilot not seen in 15 years!)
TRANSFORMERS: TV Pilot (The 75 Minute feature-length TV pilot.)
G.I. JOE: TV Pilot (The 90 Minute feature-length TV pilot.)
VOLTRON: Castle of Lions (The 90 Minute 2nd Season Opener.)
CRUSADER RABBIT #0 (Featuring 2 adventures - "Here Today, Sahara, Tomorrow", "Western Adventure" plus added segments/2 hours) (Color Episodes)
CRUSADER RABBIT #1 (2 Color Stories! - "Apes of Rath"/"Scars & Stripes")
CRUSADER RABBIT #2 (2 Color Stories! - "Belly Acres"/"Gullible's Travel")
CRUSADER RABBIT #3 (2 Color Stories! - "Mine-Business"/"Gold-Hills")
CRUSADER RABBIT #4 (2 Color Stories! - "Baseball Mystery"/"Missing Links")
CRUSADER RABBIT #5 (2 Color Stories! - "Crook's Tour"/"Place Like Rome")
BATFINK #1 (Featuring 2 full hours of 1960's Superhero-Spoof Fun!)
BATFINK #2 (Featuring 2 full hours of More Superhero Fun!)
COURAGEOUS CAT (Featuring 1 hour of Cartoons, plus added Shows!)

GOOD VIDEO STUFF! A Collection of popular shows, pilots, lost shows and more! All are from Uncut prints in Nice Quality!

THE AVENGERS "Lost Episodes" ("The Frighteners" & "The Golden Fleeca")
THE NEW AVENGERS #1 ("The Eagle's Nest" and "Last of The Cybernaughts")
THE NEW AVENGERS #2 ("The Midas Touch" and "The House of Cards")
THE NEW AVENGERS #3 ("To Catch a Rat" and "Cat Amongst The Pigeons")
PLANET OF THE APES: CBS-TV EPISODES #1 (Uncut CBS TV Prints of The Pilot "Escape from Tomorrow" and Episode #2, "The Gladiator")
PLANET OF THE APES: CBS-TV EPISODES #2 (Uncut CBS-TV Prints of The Rare episodes, "The Good Seeds" and "Deception")
TV FALL PREVIEWS for 1974 (Previews for ABC, NBC, CBS and Extras! 2 hours)
CBS PREVIEWS 1960's (Previews for 1966, 1967, and 1968 & Extras! 2 hours)
THE NOMADS "Quinn Martin's Tale of The Unexpected" 1970's remake of "The Invaders" TV Pilot with David Birney! From an NBC-TV Print!
REMO WILLIAMS LOST TV PILOT (1987 ABC-TV Pilot only aired once! A rare Uncut copy based on the film "Destroyer" Novels! 47 minutes)
THE SAINT: UNSOLO PILOT (1987 CBS Show based on the original! 50 minutes)
LOST TV HERO PILOTS (Unsold 1980's "Power Pack" Marvel pilot, Rare "Darkman" Unsold pilot and "The Owl" Lost Adrian "Highlander" Paul Pilot.)
BRANDON LEE'S LOST TV PILOT (Unsold 1980's "Kung-Fu" Episode!)
MANX: THE LOST EPISODES (Unaired version of pilot, plus a rarely seen "Lost" Episode from the first Season!)
GUNN: THE MOVIE (Craig Stevens Returns in this Theatrical 1960's Film!)
DEAN MARTIN #1 (First Episode and Christmas Show with Frank Sinatra)
DEAN MARTIN SHOW #2 (2 Great Sample Episodes!)
SUPERBOY 1961 Unaired Pilot and Screen Tests (1 hour)
SUPERBOY LOST EPISODES (First 4 Shows of 1980's TV Series-Uncut!)
LOST IN SPACE: THE CARTOON (Hanna-Barbera 1973 Special)
LOST IN SPACE: "No Place To Hide" (Unaired Pilot)
VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA-Extended Unaired Pilot (In Color)
TIME TUNNEL - "Rendezvous With Yesterday" (Uncut ABC-TV Length Pilot)
LAND OF THE GIANTS - "The Crash" (Uncut ABC-TV Length Pilot)
THE INVADERS (Extended Version of The Pilot and "The Trial")
THE HARDY BOYS in "Assault on The Tower" (w/Patrick McNea as John Steed!)
HARDY BOYS & NANCY DREW in "The Voodoo Doll", parts 1&2 (Great Story)
THE ADVENTURES OF NICK CARTER (Rare 1973 Unsold Pilot with Robert Conrad as a Detective in Turn of The Century New York City)
THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN - "Lost Movie" #1 ("Wine, Woman and War" uncut ABC-TV "Movie of The Week" Length Print)
THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN - "Lost Movie" #2 ("Solid Gold Kidnapping" uncut ABC-TV "Movie of The Week" Length Print)
THE MAGICIAN (Pilot movie-Uncut NBC TV Length with Bill Bixby)
AMOS BURKE: SECRET AGENT (2 Rare episodes of Gene Barry's Spy Series!)

T.H.E. CAT (Aired and Unaired Pilots of Rare 1960's Show)
HONEY WEST #1 (4 Episodes of Anne Francis' Detective Series!)

CULT RARE MOVIES! (Rare Flicks, Nice Quality!)

SHADOW RETURNS (1946)
SHADOW: THE MISSING LADY (1946)
THE MYSTERIOUS DR. FU MANCHU (1928)
DAUGHTER OF THE DRAGON (1932)
THE BLACK CAT (1931)
SHADOW: BEHIND THE MASK (1946)
CHANDU THE MAGICIAN (1931)
RETURN OF DR. FU MANCHU (1930)
BEHIND THE CURTAIN (1929)
THE DEVIL COMMANDS (1940)

SERIALS! Please Note: Each Serial Counts as TWO TAPES

THE PHANTOM (15 Chapters/2 Tapes)
DRUMS OF FU MANCHU (15 Chapters/2 Tapes)
COMMANDO CODY (12 Chapters/2 Tapes)
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN (12 Chapters/2 Tapes)
CAPTAIN VIDEO (15 Chapters/2 Tapes)
SIR GALAHAD (15 Chapters/2 Tapes)

NEAT STUFF - Some great classic, rare, and unusual stuff!

STAR TREK: THE LOST INTERVIEWS (1972-1979 Rare TV interviews with Star Trek Cast-Including uncut "Tomorrow" 1977, "Goodnight, America" 1974, and "20/20" 1979! 2 full hours-really nice stuff!)

STAR TREK: AT THE MOVIES (1979-1991 Collection of Film-Trailers, interviews, behind-the-scenes, Shatner on SNL-1986, UK and US Cast commercials, Theme Park stuff, Smithsonian/2 full hours)

STAR TREK: TNG BLOOPERS (1980's/1990's Collection of cast bloopers, promos, previews, trailers and interviews! (2 hours)

STAR TREK: VOYAGER COMPILATION (1990's Collection of interviews, news reports and convention footage/2 hours)

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE 9 COMPILATION (1990's Collection of interviews, news reports and convention footage/2 hours)

THE THREE STOOGES WITH TED HEALLY (Collection of 1933 MGM Shorts with "Nerzery Rhymes", "Beer & Pretzels", "Hello, Pop", "Big Idea", Curly Solo in "Roast Beef and Movies" and added pre-Columbia stuff! (2 hours)

THE THREE STOOGES IN SWING PARADE OF 1946 (Moe-Larry-Curly in supporting roles in this musical comedy with Gale Storm & extras!)

THE THREE STOOGES IN GOLD RAIDERS (1951 Moe-Larry-Shemp in supporting roles in this O'Brian Western.)

MOE ON MIKE (Moe Howard on Mike Douglas-his last 4 TV appearances!) (1973)

LOST STOOGES STUFF (1929 Newsreel footage, Steve Allen and Ed Sullivan appearances, trailers, and more! (90 minutes)

THE GREEN HORNET: TV SERIES SET-COUNTS AS 7 TAPES (7 Tapes featuring totally uncut copies of all 25 Classic 1966-1967 Van Williams/Bruce Lee series, plus extras! COUNTS AS 7 TAPES!)

SHAZAM! LIVE ACTION TV SERIES-COUNTS AS 7 TAPES (7 Tapes featuring CBS-TV prints uncut of all 28 episodes! COUNTS AS 7 TAPES!)

T.H.E. CAT: THE LOST SERIES-COUNTS AS 7 TAPES (7 Tapes featuring all 27 Episodes of this lost 1966-1967 Adventure series! COUNTS AS 7 TAPES!)

SECRETS OF ISIS-SET-COUNTS AS 4 TAPES (4 Tapes featuring 20 classic Episodes of the CBS-TV Series! COUNTS AS 4 TAPES!)

THE FANTASTIC FOUR: LOST 1960's SET-COUNTS AS 4 TAPES (4 Tapes with all 20 Episodes of the ABC-TV 1960's Series! COUNTS AS 4 TAPES!)

JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH-SET-COUNTS AS 4 TAPES (4 Tapes with all Uncut 1968 ABC-TV Episodes! COUNTS AS 4 TAPES!)

ARK II-SET-COUNTS AS 3 TAPES (3 Tapes with 14 episodes of the 1970's Sci-Fi TV Series! COUNTS AS 3 TAPES!)

JASON OF STAR COMMAND: THE FIRST SEASON-COUNTS AS 2 TAPES! (2 Tapes with All 14 Episodes of the 1970's CBS-TV Sci-Fi Series!)

RETURN TO THE PLANET OF THE APES-SET-COUNTS AS 2 TAPES (2 Tapes with All 13 Episodes of the 1970's NBC Animated TV Series!)

SPACE PATROL-THE PLANET X SAGA-COUNTS AS 4 TAPES (4 Tapes with 16 weeks of a complete 1950's TV Space-Sci-Fi Adventure! Good Quality!)

TOM CORBETT: THE LOST EPISODES-COUNTS AS 2 TAPES (2 Tapes with 19-15 min. Episodes not seen in 50 years-in Sequence! Good Quality!)

HOWARD STERN: The Lost Interviews (1986-1992 Guest appearances on National Talk shows of all types! (Various Quality/2 hours)

HOWARD AND DAVE (1984-1992 "Late Night" Appearances/2 hours)

FRIDAYS #1 (William Shatner, KISS and Kim Carnes appear in this Episode of the 1980's ABC "SNL" Rip-off/75 minutes)

XENA VIDEO COMPILATION (Interviews and related-Variety Quality-2 hours)

X-FILES COMPILATION (Bloopers, interviews and related/1 hour)

THE LATHE OF HEAVEN (Rare "Lost" PBS-Sci-Fi Special/90 Minutes)

ARE YOU BEING SERVED: THE MOVIE (Uncut British Version!)

FILMATION'S 1970's LIVE ACTION GHOSTBUSTERS! (4 Rare episodes with Forest Tucker and Larry Storch, With Bob Burns as Tracy The Ape!)

WESTERNS! - Collection of classic and cult Western TV-Series from The 1950's and 1960's From Uncut Prints in Nice Quality!

WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE (4 Episodes of Steve McQueen's 1958-1961 Series)

BAT MASTERSON #1 (4 Episodes of Gene Barry's Classic 1950's Series)

WYATT EARP #1 (4 Episodes of Hugh O'Brian's Classic 1950's Series)

CIRCUS BOY #1 (4 Episodes of Mickey Dolenz Rate 1950's Series)

LONE RANGER #1 (4 Color Episodes of The 1950's Show with Clayton Moore)

BRANDED #1 (4 B&W Episodes of Chuck Connor's 1960's Western)

THE DEPUTY #1 (4 Rare episodes of Henry Fonda's 1950's Western)

THE REBEL #1 (First 2 Episodes of Nick Adams' Classic 1950's Western)

WESTERN COMPILATION #0 (Featuring pilot episodes of "Shotgun Slade", "Wyatt Earp", "Action in the Afternoon", and "Cowboy G-Man")

WESTERN COMPILATION #1 (Featuring The Pilot of "The Loner", plus "Casey Jones", "The Rebel" and "Wyatt Earp")

WESTERN COMPILATION #2 (Featuring 2 episodes of "The Loner", plus the pilots to "Wanted: Dead or Alive" and "Bat Masterson")

1950's WESTERN ROUND UP (Featuring Episodes of Roy Rogers, Gene Autry, Annie Oakley and "The Lone Ranger")

COWBOY IN AFRICA (2 Episodes of Chuck Connor's 1967 Adventure Series)

STONY BURKE #1 (First 2 Episodes of Jack Lord's 1963 Western Series)

WILD WILD WEST-UNAIDED PILOT (55 Minute extended "The Wild West" Version)

WILD WILD WEST- "Lost CBS Episodes" (2 Uncut 1965 B&W Episodes)

TALES OF WELLS FARGO-In Color! (2 1-hour Episodes in Color)

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CORRECTION

The DC DIRECT Golden Age Flash medium-sized statue incorrectly identifies Steve Rude as designer. The statue was designed by Michael Lark. We apologize for any inconvenience.



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The winner of our 35th Mystery Contest from CBG #1333 is **Robert Stoerckel**, Indiana, Pa., who was the only entrant to correctly identify the panel as coming from *Hero For Hire* #10 (Jun '73). Since he already won a copy of *Comic-Book Superstars*, he will receive a copy of *The Comic-Book Book*. Keep those entries coming and keep watching for more contests in our pages.

Mystery Contest #35 Winner

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Aug 15 FL, Largo. Comic Book & Toys TNT Collectible Show, Honeywell Minnreg Bldg. 6340-126th Ave. N., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 65, A: \$2. D. Walent, PO Box 82254, Tampa, FL 33682. PH: 813-932-0494.

HAWAII

Jul 23-25 HI, Honolulu. All Collectors Show 99, Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. 777 Ward Ave., SH: Fri. 4pm-9pm, Sat. 11am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, A: \$3.50, \$2. ages 7-11. Ilene & Wayne Productions, Inc., Ilene Wong, PO Box 61704, Honolulu, HI 96839. PH: 808-941-9754.

ILLINOIS

Jul 25 IL, Orland Park. Comic Book, Sports, Toys, NASCAR & Beansies Show, Civic Ctr. La Grange Rd. (Rt. 45) at 147th St., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 85-6, F: \$30, A: \$1. John Leary, 9522 W. Shore Dr., Oak Lawn, IL 60453. PH: 708-423-1758.

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Aug 15 IL, Bridgeview. Comic Book & Toy Show, Oremus Center. 79th & Oketo (2 bks. W. of Harlem Ave.), SH: 10am-3pm, T: 8, F: \$25, A: \$1. Mike, PH: 708-788-7276 or Jim, PH: 815-886-8925.

INDIANA

Aug 7 IN, Syracuse. Comics & Collectible Hobby Show, Scout Cabin. Indiana Hwy. 13, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 22, F: \$25-\$30, A: free. Gene Haberstick, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Aug 8 IN, Indianapolis. Comic Book, Toy & Animation Show, Holiday Inn East. 21st & Shadeland (Shadeland Ave. Exit of I-70 or I-465), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 60, F: \$70, A: \$4, 9 & under free. Andy & Diane Holzman, 1947 Bechtel Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46260. PH: 317-334-0173 or 824-9602.

Aug 14-15 IN, South Bend. Comics & Collectible Hobby Show, Scottsdale Mall, Ireland at Miami, SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60, F: \$80-\$90, A: free. Gene Haberstick, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

Aug 20-22 IN, Hammond. Comics & Collectible Hobby Show, Woodmar Mall, Indianapolis Blvd. at 165th St., SH: Fri. 10am-9pm, Sat. 10am-

5:30pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 60, F: \$80-\$90, A: free. Gene Haberstick, PO Box 908, Goshen, IN 46527. PH: 219-533-1887.

KANSAS

Jul 25 KS, Overland Park. Comic Con One Day Wonder, Holiday Inn Mission. 7240 Shawnee Mission Pkwy., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30, F: \$20, A: free. Homer Sager, 5021 Clark Dr., Roeland Park, KS 66205. PH: 913-432-9112.

KENTUCKY

Aug 13-15 KY, Ashland. Comic Book, Sports Card & Racing Coll. Show, Town Center. 500 Winchester Ave., SH: Fri. & Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12noon-6pm, T: 30-8, F: \$90, for 1, \$170, for 2, A: free. Badgley Promotions, PO Box 3528, Parkersburg, WV 26103. PH: 304-485-8345.

MASSACHUSETTS

Jul 23-25 MA, Boston. New England's Comic Book, Toy, Sci-Fi, Gaming & Fantasy Convention, Bayside Expo Ctr. 200 Mt. Vernon St. Infinite Visions, Box 904, S. Yarmouth, MA 02664. PH: 508-896-7402.

Aug 15 MA, South Attleboro. Comic Book, Toys, Non-Sports Card & Collectible Show, K of C Hall. Rt. 123, take Rt. 123 W., SH: 10am-3pm, T: 59, A: \$3. Harry Martin, 936 South St., Wrentham, MA 02093. PH: 508-384-8791.

MICHIGAN

Jul 25 MI, Livonia. X-Trivia Con Comic Book & Toy Show, Knights Of Columbus. 19801 Farmington Rd. (bet. 7 Mile & 8 Mile Rd.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 55-8, F: \$35, in advance, \$40, day of show, A: \$2. Motor City Conventions, Michael Goldman, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd. Ste. 231, Southfield, MI 48076. PH: 248-426-8059.

MINNESOTA

Aug 21-22 MN, Duluth. Collector's Expo IV, Miller Hill Mall. 1600 Miller Trunk Hwy. #108, SH: Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, T: 40-8, F: \$80, for 1, \$130, for 2, Timothy Broman, 1600 Miller Trunk Hwy. #108, Duluth, MN 55811. PH: 218-726-1360.

NEBRASKA

Aug 15 NE, Omaha. Monthly Comic Books, Coins, Ballcards, NASCAR & Automobile Collectibles Show, Holiday Inn. Ford Hall, I-80 & 72nd St., T: 100, F: \$30, A: free. Ed Bishop, 2016 E. 19th, Fremont, NE 68025. PH: 402-721-7364.

NEW JERSEY

Jul 25 NJ, Clifton. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show. 802

Clifton Ave. (entrance on Colfax Ave.), SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50-8, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 779-9332 day of show.

Jul 25 NJ, Bordentown. Comic Book, Toys & Sports Card Show, Armory. Rt. 206 off Exit 7 of NJ Tpke., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, A: \$2. EMCEE Conventions, PO Box 151, Hightstown, NJ 08520. PH: 609-448-7585.

Jul 30-Aug 1 NJ, Freehold. Triple Play Comic Book, Sports Card, Memorabilia & Collectible Toy Show, Raceway Mall. 3710 Rt. 9, SH: mall hrs., T: 100-8, F: \$190, for 1, \$360, for 2, \$500, for 3, A: free. Ferdinand Parascandolo, 482 Retford Ave., SI, NY 10306. PH: 718-667-9588 or 967-9172.

Aug 1 NJ, Garfield. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys Club. 490 Midland Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 70, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 478-7662 day of show.

Aug 1 NJ, Wayne. Comic & Collectibles Show, Co. #1 Firemens Convention Ctr. 1 Parish Dr. off 23 N. at Lincoln Park Ext., SH: 9am-3pm, T: 100-6, F: \$20, A: free. Phil DeMario, PO Box 4094, Wayne, NJ 07474. PH: 973-667-2112.

Aug 8 NJ, Elmwood Park. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, American Legion Post 147. 1 Legion Place (off Market St.), SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 50-6, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 796-9717 day of show.

Aug 15 NJ, Garfield. Comic Books, Sports Card & Collectibles Show, Boys Club. 490 Midland Ave., SH: 9:30am-3:30pm, T: 70, A: \$1. Gary Sipos, 1 Garden Ct., N. Garfield, NJ 07026. PH: 973-340-2218 or 478-7662 day of show.

Aug 20-22 NJ, Wildwood. Comic Book, Sports Card & Toys Show, Conv. Ctr. On the boardwalk at Burk Ave., SH: Fri. 5pm-10pm, Sat. 12noon-10pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, A: free. EMCEE Conventions, PO Box 151, Hightstown, NJ 08520. PH: 609-448-7585.

NEW MEXICO

Aug 20-22 NM, Albuquerque. Bubonicon 31 Show, Howard Johnson East. I-40 & Eubank NE. NMSF Conference, PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176. Craig Chrissinger, PH: 505-266-8905 or Greg Herring, PH: 505-266-9030.

NEW YORK

Jul 23 NY, Brooklyn. Fri. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church. 20th Ave. at Bayridge Pkwy. (same as 75th St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40, for 1, \$75, for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder St., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.

(Continues on Page 38)

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EVENTS

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- Jul 25 NY**, Jamestown. Comic Book, Toys & Collectibles Show, Khar-ram Grotto Club, Baker Street Extension, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 40-8, F: \$30., A: free. The Card Connection, PH: 716-483-6626.
- Jul 31-Aug 1 NY**, Shirley. Comic Book, Card, Toy & Action Figure Beanie Show. 20 Floyd Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$20. for 1 day, \$30. for 2 days, A: free. Joe Fabianski, PH: 516-276-1871 or 281-9672 day of show.
- Aug 7 NY**, Sayville-LI. Comic Book, Action Figures & Non-Sports Show, Atlas Mart Indoor Flea Market. 5750 Sunrise Hwy. & Broadway, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30, A: free. Paul, PH: 516-289-7398.
- Aug 7-8 NY**, Shirley. Comic Book, Card, Toy & Action Figure Beanie Show. 20 Floyd Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$20. for 1 day, \$30. for 2 days, A: free. Joe Fabianski, PH: 516-276-1871 or 281-9672 day of show.
- Aug 8 NY**, Brooklyn. Sun. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, Temple Hillel of Flatlands. 2164 Ralph Ave. (at Ave L), SH: 10am-5pm, T: 50-8, F: \$40. for 1, \$75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.
- Aug 13 NY**, Brooklyn. Fri. Comic Book, Baseball Cards, Beanie Babies, Toys & Collectibles Show, St. Dominics Church. 20th Ave. at Bayridge Pky. (same as 75th St.), SH: 6pm-10pm, T: 50-9, F: \$40. for 1, \$75. for 2, A: free. Sunrise Prods., Scotty O'Donnell, PO Box 340625 Ryder Stn., Brooklyn, NY 11234. PH: 718-251-2075 or 241-6477.
- Aug 14-15 NY**, Shirley. Comic Book, Card, Toy & Action Figure Beanie Show. 20 Floyd Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$20. for 1 day, \$30. for 2 days, A: free. Joe Fabianski, PH: 516-276-1871 or 281-9672 day of show.
- Aug 15 NY**, Brooklyn. Comic Book, Sports Card & Beanie Babies Show, Golden Gate Inn. Knapp St. & Shore Pky., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 35-8, F: \$45., A: free. Mark Dillon, PH: 718-266-1625.
- Aug 15 NY**, Ozone Park. Comic Book, Sports Card, Coin & Beanie Baby Show & AUCTION, Jewish Ctr. 107-01 Crossbay Blvd., SH: 10am-4pm, T: 36, F: \$37.50 for 1, \$65. for 2, A: \$1. Joseph Carvana, 114-32 150 Ave., S. Ozone Park, NY 11420. PH: 718-845-7240 or 848-1795.
- Aug 21 NY**, Sayville-LI. Comic Book, Action Figures & Non-Sports Show, Atlas Mart Indoor Flea Market. 5750 Sunrise Hwy. & Broadway, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30, A: free. Paul, PH: 516-289-7398.
- Aug 21-22 NY**, Shirley. Comic Book, Card, Toy & Action Figure Beanie Show. 20 Floyd Rd., SH: 10am-4pm, F: \$20. for 1 day, \$30. for 2 days, A: free. Joe Fabianski, PH: 516-276-1871 or 281-9672 day of show.

NORTH CAROLINA

- Jul 31-Aug 1 NC**, Charlotte. 9th Toy Collectors Show, Hornets Training Ctr. I-77 S.C. Exit 88, SH: Sat. 9am-4pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, T: 330. Carolina Hobby Expo, PH: 704-786-8373.
- Aug 14 NC**, Fayetteville. 29th Sandhills Toy & Hobby Show, Charlie Rose Expo Ctr. Just off Hwy. 301 S., SH: 9am-4pm, T: 225. Carolina Hobby Expo, PH: 704-786-8373.

OHIO

- Jul 25 OH**, Marietta. Parkersburg-Marietta Comic Con, Holiday Inn. I-77 at Exit 176 (Rt. 50), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 32-6, F: \$45. for 1, \$110. for 3, A: \$2. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda NE, Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056.
- Jul 31-Aug 1 OH**, Columbus. Comic Book & Sports Card Show, Veterans Memorial. 300 W. Broad St., T: 150, F: \$85., A: free. Roger Edwards, 873 W. Main St., Westerville, OH 43081. PH: 614-523-2179.
- Aug 1 OH**, Akron-Canton. Comic Con, Holiday Inn-Akron South. I-77 at Exit 120 (Arlington Rd.), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 42-6, F: \$115. ea., A: \$3.50, 6 & under free. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda NE, Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056.

OREGON

- Jul 31-Aug 1 OR**, Portland. Comic Book & Collectibles Show, Jantzen Beach Super Center. Jantzen Beach Exit off I-5, SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 11am-6pm, T: 60. Twin Oaks Sports Shows, 1242 State Ave., Suite 1-214, Marysville, WA 98270. PH: 360-653-5527.

PENNSYLVANIA

- Jul 25 PA**, Philadelphia. Comic Con, Stadium Holiday Inn. 10th St. & Packer Ave. (Exit 46 off I-76 or Exit 15 off I-95), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 48, F: \$65. for 1, \$120. for 2, A: \$3. Derek Woywood, 10 Chelsea Cir., Clementon, NJ 08021. PH: 609-782-0817.
- Aug 6-8 PA**, Stroudsburg. Comic Book, Toys & Sport Collectibles Show, Stroud Mall. Rt. 611, T: 6' & 8', F: \$80.-\$100. Two Brothers Collectibles, PH: 570-603-1208.

TENNESSEE

- Aug 14 TN**, Kingsport. Comic Book, Cards & Racing Show, Civic Auditorium. 1550 Fort Henry Dr., SH: 9am-5pm, T: 50, F: \$42., A: \$1. Bill Henderson, 346 Fuller Estate Cir., Morristown, TN 37813. PH: 423-581-8386.

TEXAS

- Jul 24-25 TX**, Houston. Collectors Show, Holiday Inn. 7787 Katy Fwy., I-10 W. at Antoine Exit, SH: 10am-4pm, T: 70, A: \$3., 12 & under free. Nostalgia Promotions, Andy Mingle, PH: 281-748-5154.

VIRGINIA

- Jul 24 VA**, Salem. 2nd Annual Vintage Comics & Collectibles Show, Civic Ctr. 1001 Boulevard, SH: 10am-5pm, T: 40-8, F: \$50. in advance, \$60. day of show, A: \$2., 12 & under free. Alum Ridge In-

dustries, Roger Mannon, 623 Harris Hollow Rd. SW, Floyd, VA 24091. PH: 540-789-7056.

- Jul 31-Aug 1 VA**, Virginia Beach. Collectors Mart, Pembroke Mall. Intersection of Independence & VA Beach Bldvs., SH: Sat. 10am-9pm, Sun. 12:30pm-5:30pm, T: 85-8, F: \$120-\$140, A: free. Larry Webster, 4406 Holland Rd., VA Beach, VA 23452. PH: 757-486-0215.

- Aug 8 VA**, Tysons Corner-McLean. Monthly Comic Book, Magic, Toy & Trading Card Show, Tysons Corner Westpark Hotel. 8401 Westpark Dr., take Exit 10 (Rt. 7 W.) off I-495 (Washington, DC area), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 90-6, F: \$65. for 1st, \$60. for 2nd, \$55. ea. add'l., A: \$2., under 5 free. Capital Associates, Inc., Jeffrey Rocen, 7952 Arden Ct., Vienna, VA 22027. PH: 703-912-1993.

WEST VIRGINIA

- Jul 25 WV**, Parkersburg-Marietta. Comic Con, Holiday Inn. I-77 at Exit

17 (Rt. 50), SH: 10am-4pm, T: 30-6, F: \$45. for 1, \$110. for 3, A: \$2., 6 & under free. Jeff Harper, 5220 Loma Linda NE, Canton, OH 44714. PH: 330-499-6056.

WISCONSIN

- Aug 5-8 WI**, Milwaukee. GenCon, Midwest Express Ctr. 1 Midwest Express Center Ct., Thur.-Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 10am-5pm, T: 200, F: sold out, A: \$18. per day, \$55. all 4 days. Andon Unlimited, Lisa Klingler, PO Box 1740, Renton, WA 98057. PH: 425-204-2675 or 800-529-EXPO.

CANADA

- Jul 31 ON**, Ottawa. SmallPOX-Small Press Comic Expo, 1st Baptist Church Hall. 140-A Laurier Ave. W. at Elgin St., SH: 2pm-8pm, A: \$1. Stephen Bourne, PH: 613-565-1960.

Convention Calendar Listing Form

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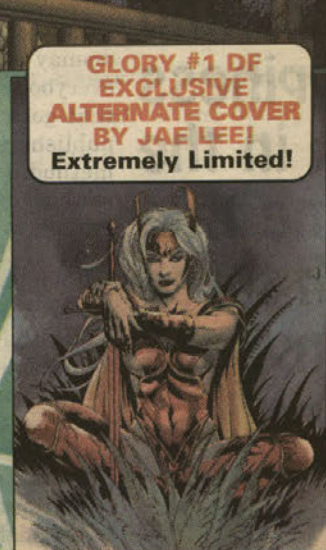
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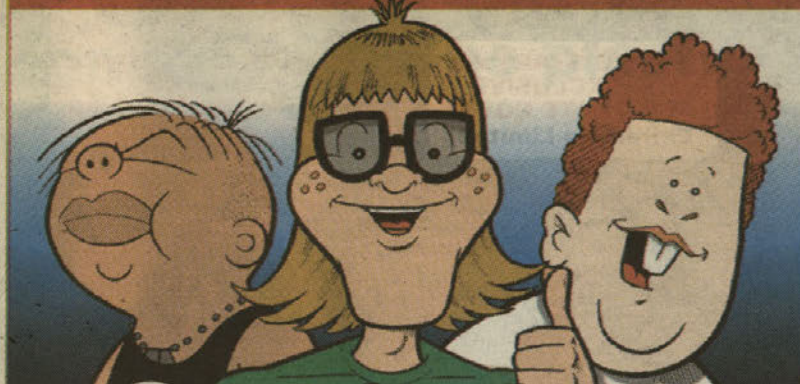
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Not actual art

"THE 3 GEEKS" BY RICH KOSLOWSKI**"INNOCENT BYSTANDER" BY GARY SASSAMAN**

the odd couple

GEEKSVILLE

Can a man and his cats find happiness in the same title with three funnybook fanatics?

by Neil Dorsett
& John Jackson Miller



Ollie
LOOKING VERY WORRIED.

Comics makes for strange bedfellows. Or is that bunk-mates?

Survival in the world of self-published comics is a tricky game. For every *Cerebus* there's a dozen promised "300-issue epics" that go three issues and out. When series worthy of regard disappear to the dismay of their core readerships, everybody loses. This isn't a fact that goes unnoticed among self-publishers, so some turn to new methods. Or, in some cases, old methods.

So it is with *Geeksville*, a marriage of the critically successful self-published titles *Innocent Bystander* and *The 3 Geeks*. But, while the dual-creator/one-title format has been seen before in the form of *Love and Rockets* and *Tantalizing Stories*, both of those were shared by their creators from their inception. *Geeksville* truly represents a merger. Will it be a model for others to follow?

Gary Sassaman is no stranger to comics fandom; longtime *CBG* readers may even recall his earliest contribution, an opinion column taking on Joe Brancatelli in *The Buyer's Guide for Comic Fandom* #55 (April 1, 1974).

In more recent times, he has published six issues of *Innocent Bystander* under his Ollie Ollie-Oxen Free label, calling it "the nice little comic you can bring home to Mom." The comic book is aptly titled to imply its reflective tone. *Bystander* issues (four of which have been collected in a pa-

perback volume, *Is This the Road to Fiction?*) addressed a variety of subjects, from a detailed account of the Marx Brothers' career to Sassaman's own first love.

It's accompanied by the benevolent and sometimes true adventures of his cats, Stan and Ollie. As with their namesakes, one cat is constantly reiterating the other's statements, always beginning with "yes." Cat material has traditionally thrived in bookstores, and Sassaman said he's heard of a poster for *Bystander* #4 (featuring the kitties) successfully drawing "civilians" into a comics shop.

Much of the other content involves Sassaman's daily life, with much joy taken over an ill-gotten sixpack of ginger ale, and comics

from his past. The comic book is aptly titled to imply its reflective tone.

Sassaman's style alters to fit the material. The cat stories have their own aesthetic, flat and highly rendered; for his trip into the past, Sassaman chose heavy black lines, emphasizing the emotions behind the faces more than the faces themselves. Exotic lettering, not unlike that of *Evil Eye* creator Richard Sala, fills musical sequences with a different tone from their spoken counterparts.

Sassaman's color covers have also drawn praise. Where computers offer comics colorists a strong temptation to go overboard, Sassaman's cover designs, while thor-

oughly computer-assisted, are simple and direct.

And now, as the man said, for something completely different...

For three years, under the aegis of Three Fingers Press (which will also publish *Geeksville*), Rich Koslowski has chronicled the "lives" of Jim, Keith, and Allen — three, well, geeks. Three young men of high-school age, two of whom are gainfully (if painfully) employed, are otherwise hopelessly mired in the nuances of fantasy and comic books — familiar ones, too, though retitled to protect the innocent. (One can hardly doubt the identity of "Punish-Man" or "The Bulk"!)

Rich Koslowski... on Gary Sassaman's BYSTANDER

What would the young, super-hero obsessed Keith, Jim, and Allen of *The 3 Geeks* make of *Innocent Bystander*?

"I guess you could say The 3 Geeks haven't branched out too much into independent comics. Sky, the female character recently introduced, is the only one into independent comic books. The 3 Geeks wouldn't even read *The 3 Geeks*! But they are starting to dabble.

"As for me, I love *Innocent Bystander*. Gary sent some comic books, and, when I finally got around to reading them, I was floored by his attention to detail. I can really see the love he has for his work.

"Gary's also very good with the computer stuff — coloring, layout, etc. — where I'm not. He colored covers and assembled inside graphics for 3 *Geeks* issues and is doing it all for *Geeksville*."



Gary Sassaman... on Rich Koslowski's 3 GEEKS

What would the young, Stan-and-Jack-obsessed Gary of *Innocent Bystander* #5 have made of *The 3 Geeks*?

"I think that the Geeks are something that is appreciated with a bit of age and hindsight. I think most of us, as we grow older, tend to look at our childhoods as better times and want and wish for the things that we grew up with. And I think the Geeks definitely speak to that.

"Here are three guys whose sole existence is comic books: getting them, reading them, owning them, wanting them, and more. And as an adult, with bills to pay and laundry to do and litter boxes to empty, I think I kind of long for the time when I could run to the newsstand and just buy 10 comics for \$1.20. And *The 3 Geeks* remind me — and, I imagine, many others, of that time."



Issues #10 and #11 of *3 Geeks* contain the two-part story "Happy Birthday, Allen" in which Allen, the most disturbing (and of course, most revered) of the three has his birthday party and is brought low by his friend's thoughtful gift. It's geekery at its purest, as a new character, punk-dresser Sky, functions as a Greek chorus reminding us that we are, after all, dealing with geeks here. Naturally, the Geeks see her as a villain. She's an important addition to a series that might have grown insular, since *The Geeks* themselves tend to support each other's tastes. Koslowski adds an ironic note in that Sky is a geek — albeit trapped in a different motif.

Artistically, Koslowski (who also currently draws 60 pages a month for Archie) pairs the light humor of the magazine with a suitably traditional Saturday-morning animation style — a little Ken Mitchroney, a certain bit of Scott Shaw! Koslowski's clean lines are shaded only occasionally, giving this general-audience comic book a friendly and appealing look.

While the subject matter itself might seem less accessible to a civilian audience, again, the distortions in the fanboy material make it possible for Koslowski to make general jokes about specific material. After all, the Geeks were born of *How to Pick up Girls if You're a Comic Book Geek*, a single self-published issue released in 1996 by Three Finger Prints.

"It was basically inspired by my own experience working at a comics store here in Wisconsin," Koslowski said, "and all of these strange characters that I'd encounter." Since so many of these characters seemed to be stunted socially, the concept of a satirical

manual on dating seemed a natural. And it was: *How to Pick up Girls* was a financial and critical success, sparking a spinoff series for *The Geeks*.

In its 11 issues, *The 3 Geeks* series drew regular attention to the feats and foibles of Jim, Keith, and Allen, culminating with Koslowski's recent nominations for Eisner Awards in the categories of Best Humor Writer/Artist, Best Humor Publication, and Best Short Story (for "Why?! Oh God Why?" in #4).

Why, in the wake of success, would Koslowski choose to give up his title in favor of the dual-creator format?

"The bottom line," Koslowski said, "is that I do so much freelance work for Archie that I couldn't maintain a bimonthly *3 Geeks* schedule on my own. And Gary's work is a good fit."

And why would Sassaman give up part of his private, eclectically stocked playground to a trio of singleminded characters? "I'm not sure — but I hope! — that our fan bases intersect," Sassaman said. "I think both of us hope we will draw off each others' readers. I know one of our major reasons for doing this is to publish on a regular basis — at least bimonthly — because we both believe that that's the only way to get retailers' attention and support. So we're patiently waiting to see the numbers on #1 and working ahead on #2.

"As for me, I tend to think our work complements each other quite well. They've both got gentle humor, something fans can appreciate. I also think it can stand in the more mainstream market — people who don't normally read comics, that is. My work tends to

be more bittersweet these days, so we'll see."

In *Geeksville*, Sassaman said, "at least #1 and #2 will be pretty much Geeks 'R' Us." The *3 Geeks* will be featured in a long story, with eight-page *Innocent Bystander* stories in each issue. Sassaman's contribution to the first issue is titled "Smoke" and details "the strange lengths my parents went to to not smoke around each other."

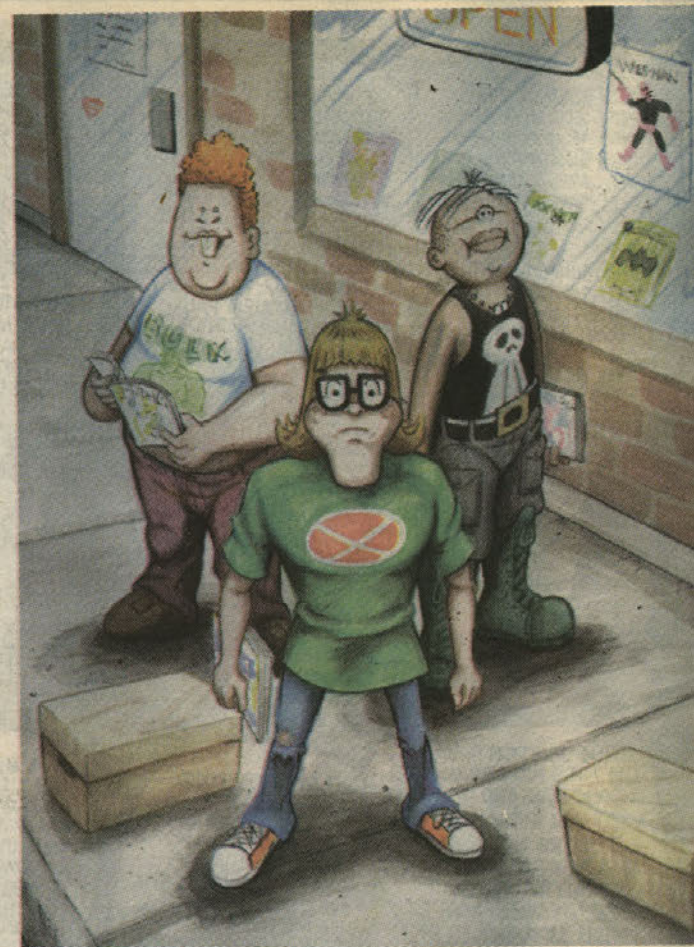
The first *Geeksville* will also introduce the new feature "True Tales from the Comic Shop." The ongoing strip is to have multiple authors, with readers encouraged to send in their own true tales. The Halloween installment, set for #3, will feature a true story of Koslowski being wounded and bagging his assailant — all the while dressed as Batman. Other future plans include an all-cat issue, the *3 Geeks* trackdown of an anonymous letterhack, and a

True Tales from the Comic Shop

"There's a sitcom in here somewhere." Everybody's thought that about their place of work, but Rich Koslowski knows that the local comics shop is fodder for comics stories aplenty. "True Tales from the Comic Shop" begins as a regular back-up feature in *Geeksville* #1.

"It's another reason I wanted to do *Geeksville*," he said. "My wife, Sandy, and I had swapped stories with retailers and heard about one wacky customer or event after another, and we thought that would be a great for a comic book. We've got four stories in already, but are looking for more."

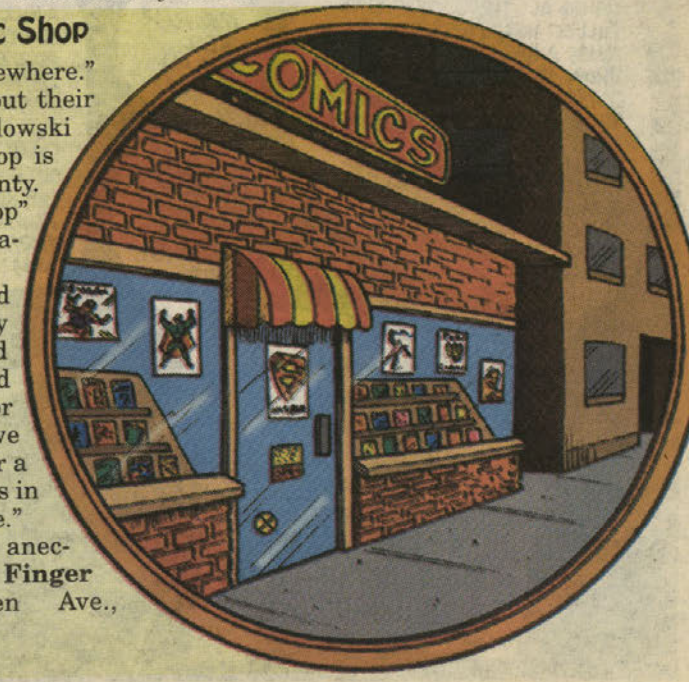
Retailers with interesting anecdotes can send 'em to **Three Finger Prints**, N69W15890 Eileen Ave., Menomonee Falls, WI 53031.



The covers to *Geeksville* #1 (above) and #2 (below).

glimpse at the future of the Geeks' lives.

Geeksville makes its debut at Comic-Con International: San Diego, the second weekend of August. It is scheduled to ship the following week. Both *Innocent Bystander* and *The 3 Geeks* are available now from Sassaman and Koslowski, respectively. *The 3 Geeks* trade paperback, reprinting #1-3 of the regular series, is also available, as is *Is This the Road to Fiction?* which reprints the first four issues of *Innocent Bystander*.



IT'S BEEN TOUGH GOING FOR YOU EVER SINCE YOU AND YOUR BUDDY WANDERED INTO THAT CAVE AND WERE ABDUCTED BY ALIENS WHO EXPERIMENTED ON YOU BY TRANSFERRING YOUR MINDS INTO THESE STRANGE, ROCK-LIKE BODIES, eh CONCRETE?

I SUPPOSE FRED, THOUGH THE HEIGHTENED SIGHT AND HEARING, AS WELL AS THE INCREASED STRENGTH AND ENDURANCE-- I GUESS THEY OFFSET SOME OF THE DRAWBACKS. AND HEY, LET'S NOT FORGET THE AWARD-WINNING STORIES PAUL HAS PROVIDED ME!

I'D BE THE FIRST TO AGREE THAT THE WORK CREATOR PAUL CHADWICK HAS BROUGHT TO YOUR FEATURE SINCE I FIRST SAW-- AND LOVED-- IT IN DARK HORSE PRESENTS. I WAS BEEN EXEMPLARY, BUT STILL, I KNOW YOUR METAMORPHOSIS HAS TAKEN AN EMOTIONAL TOLL...

SIGH. ONE DAY, I'M RONALD LITHGOW, A TRULY MILD-MANNERED POLITICAL SPEECHWRITER STRUGGLING TO GET OVER HIS EX-WIFE, AND THE NEXT, I'M INEXORABLY TRAPPED IN THIS PELLUCID FRAME, AND EXPECTED BY EVERYONE TO ACT THE ROLE OF A REAL-LIFE SUPER-HERO.

ONLY YOU DON'T-- YOU CAN'T. IT'S NOT YOU. YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, AND YOU DO WHAT YOU THINK IS RIGHT, BUT YOU'RE NOT REALLY AN ADVENTURER. LURKING INSIDE THAT KIRBYESQUE FACADE IS THE MOST CEREBRAL CHARACTER THE KING DIDN'T CREATE.

I'M NOT PETER PARKER. A STARTLING TRANSFORMATION ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE MY PERSONALITY OVERNIGHT-- OR GIVE ME THE ABILITY TO SEW, EITHER-- THOUGH IN MY CASE IT'D BE A MOOT POINT.

THE WORST THING IS-- AND I'LL ATTEMPT TO BE DELICATE HERE-- IS THE WHOLE BOY-GIRL SITUATION AND YOUR UNFORTUNATE LACKING OF THE PROPER EQUIPMENT FOR THE PROCEDURE.

YES, THE INABILITY TO EVEN FEEL TO TOUCH OF ANOTHER HUMAN BEING THROUGH THIS GRANITE-LIKE CASING CAN BE, AT TIMES, QUITE DEPRESSING.

Oh, AND THANKS FOR AT LEAST ATTEMPTING TO BE DELICATE.

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN USING ALL THE LOOT YOU'VE PULLED IN AS CONCRETE TO AMASS A COLLECTION OF HIGH-BROWN, ah, SENSUAL ART-- CLASSIC PAINTINGS, REKNOWNED NUDE STATUES, WITH NARY AN ISSUE OF HUSTLER IN SIGHT-- BUT I'VE GIVEN IT SOME THOUGHT AND I BELIEVE I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUGGEST AN INTERESTING ALTERNATIVE TO YOU?

REALLY? WELL, I'M ALL EARS!

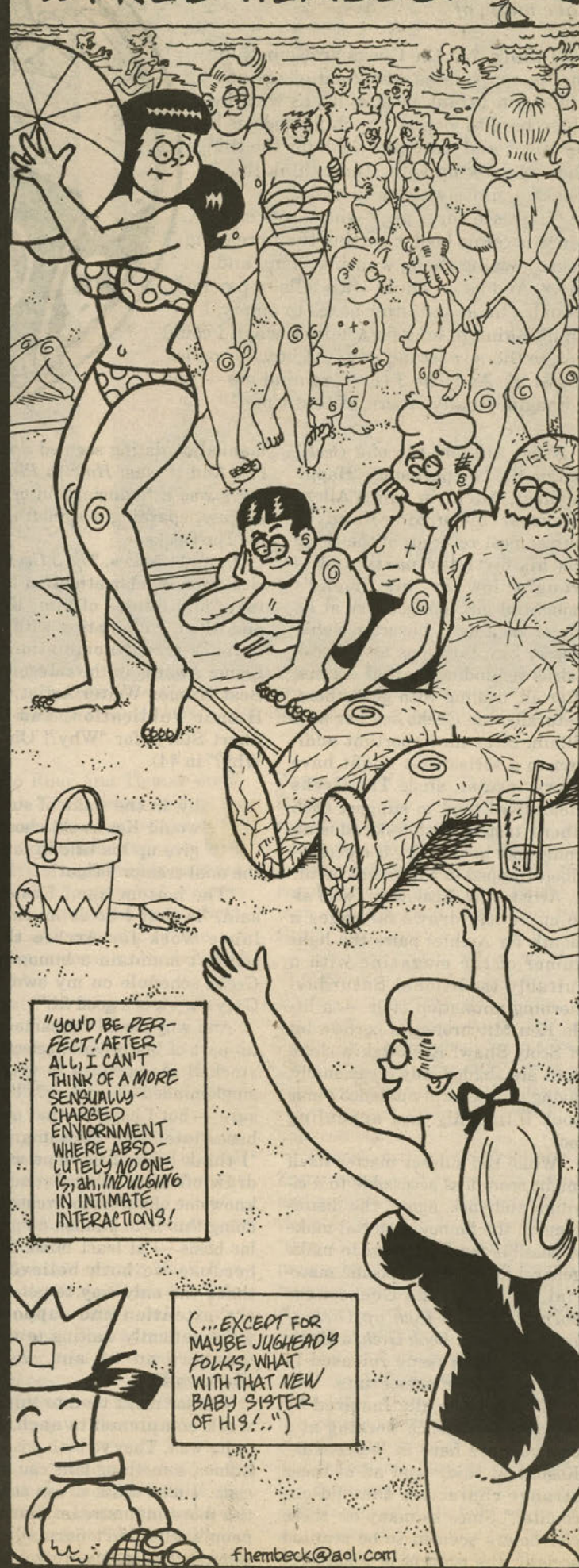
...ACTUALLY, NO, NOT SINCE THAT FATEFUL DAY IN THE CAVE, BUT...

HOWABOUT GATHERING TOGETHER A NICE RUN OF BETTY AND VERONICA COMICS, ILLUSTRATED BY THAT NOTED PURVEYOR OF PULCHRITUDE, THE LEGENDARY-- AND STILL ACTIVE-- DAN DECARLO? BETTER YET, HAVE YOUR PUBLISHER GET TOGETHER WITH THE FOLKS IN MAMARONECK, AND WORK OUT SOME SORT OF CROSS-OVER WITH THE RIVERDALE TEENS. HEY, IF THE PUNISHER AND THE NINJA TURTLES COULD DO IT, WHY NOT YOU?

... AND DO YOU THINK I'D FIT IN?

Dateline: @!!!?★

BY FRED HEMBECK



"YOU'D BE PERFECT. AFTER ALL, I CAN'T THINK OF A MORE SENSUALLY-CHARGED ENVIRONMENT WHERE ABSOLUTELY NO ONE IS, ah, INDULGING IN INTIMATE INTERACTIONS!

(...EXCEPT FOR MAYBE JUGHEAD'S FOLKS, WHAT WITH THAT NEW BABY SISTER OF HIS!...)"

fhembeck@aol.com

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Cover by Neil Vokes!)

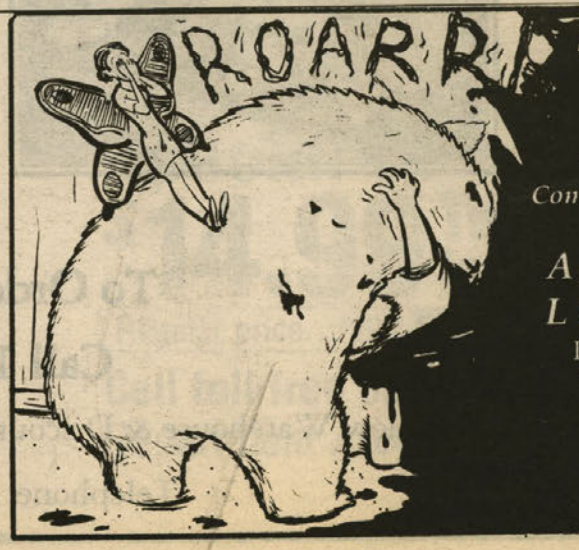
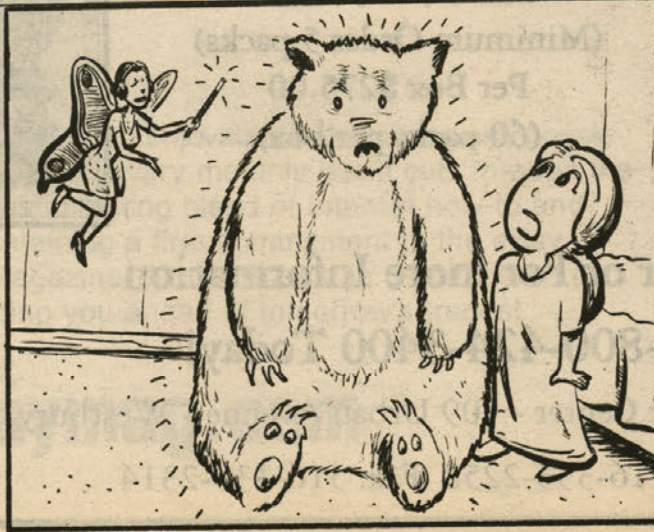
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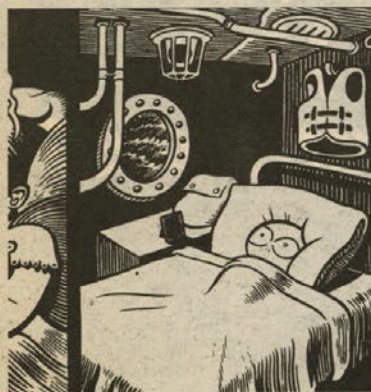
"sick-o-fun"
Comics Buyers GuideARSENIC
LULLABYIN PREVIEWS
VOL. 9 NO. 7
UNDER
A. SILENT
COMICS

A journey in brush and ink

Top Shelf INDIES

"Chunky's is the classic journey to find oneself and the meaning of life."

— Chris Staros, publisher



By Neil Dorsett

For the past two years, Brett Warnock and Chris Staros (*The Staros Report*) have been publishing comic books under the Top Shelf Productions label. The line began with the appropriately titled *Top Shelf*, and the publisher continues to sign a wide range of independent comics creators.

This fall, Top Shelf releases the graphic novel *Good-Bye Chunky Rice* by Craig Thompson, whose work has appeared in *Nickelodeon* magazine. The 128-page black-and-white book (\$14.95) tells the somber and touching story of a turtle, Chunky Rice, who leaves his home and friends for reasons never exactly specified — except for his declaration that wandering is what turtles do (panel at lower right).

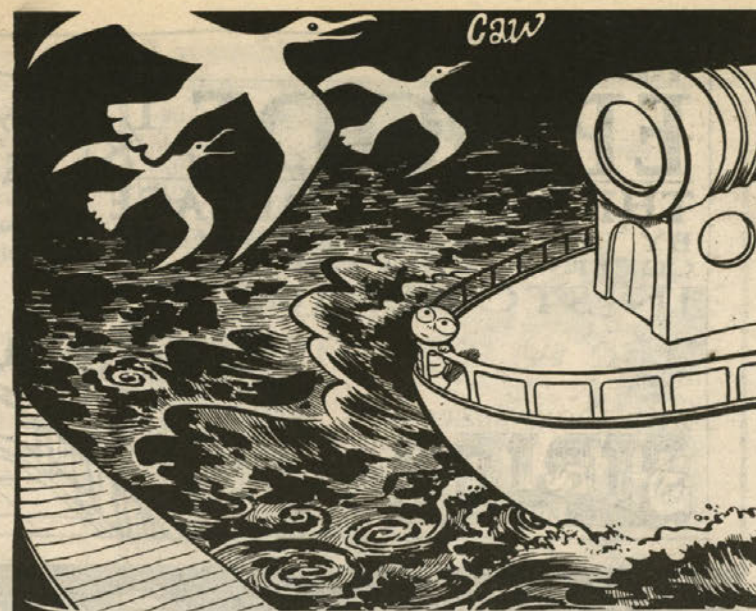
Chunky's relationships with the friends he leaves behind and with his new companions on his ocean voyage form the core of the work. In addition to this somewhat helpless hero casting himself adrift in the world deliberately, the cast of characters includes Dandel, his "significant other" left behind; a strange crew of sailors; and the story's other protagonist, the nameless man who gave Chunky his former home. It's this man who has the book's best

crazy dialogue, as he mutters to himself and his bird friend. "This remote control happiness be soothing down me hurts for the temporary," he observes while operating a toy boat. Much of the true heart of the tale revolves around this man's loss of his childhood pet, and the lifelong pain that resulted.

A cartoony visual style, wacky lettering, and a strange sense of dialogue combine to give *Good-Bye Chunky Rice* its own definite flavor which does not exclude younger readers.

"When Craig Thompson brought me [*Chunky Rice*], it was an 80-page novella," Staros said. "There were a few things, here and there... he'd never had any editorial feedback before. Then he came back later with this 120-page beautiful thing." Staros immediately pounced, making *Good-Bye, Chunky Rice* the first in a projected series of Top Shelf graphic novels with "rich full-color covers and hefty interior pages." The series will include a regular semiannual entry from Tom Hart (*Hutch Owen's Working Hard, The Sands*).

Endorsed by Jeff Smith, Eddie Campbell, and others, *Chunky Rice* is solicited by Diamond Comic Distributors and FM International to ship to retailers in September.



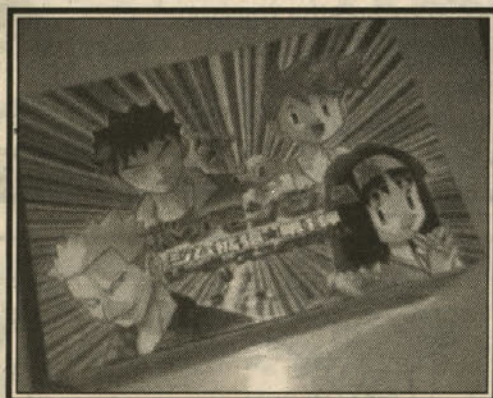
Chunky Rice begins his journey of self-discovery (above) and thinks back to the way it began (below).



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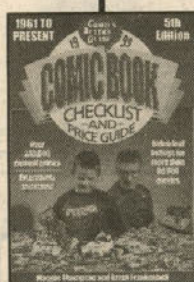


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SUN JUL 25

Visions '99 Expo in Boston, Mass. Final day: See Calendar Notes.

Born on this date:
 Gen Mitchell
 Alex Wald (1949) 50 years ago
 Chuck Melville (1953)
 John Robert Statema (1961)
 George Roberts, Jr. (1963)
 Galen Showman (1972)

MON JUL 26

Born on this date:
 Jeremy Kay (1942)
 Bob Pinaha (1953)
 Lawrence Watt-Evans (1954) 45 years ago
 Harry Candelario (1962)

TUES JUL 27

Born on this date:
 Bill Pearson (1938)
 Ernie Chan (1940)
 H.P. McElwee (1954) 45 years ago
 Mark Pate (1972)

WED JUL 28

CBG #1343 ships — it's time for CBG's second annual all-review issue. Reviews by retailers, columnists, and the CBG staff.

Born on this date:
 Dick Sprang (1915)
 Jim Davis (1945)
 Mike Smith (1951)
 Ian Akin (1959) 40 years ago
 Jon J. Muth (1960)

THURS JUL 29

Born on this date:
 Kurt Goldzung (1949) 50 years ago
 Randy Maxson (1953)
 D. Larry Hancock (1954) 45 years ago
 Lovern Kindzierski (1954) 45 years ago
 Dave Stevens (1955)
 John Nordland II (1958)

FRI JUL 30

Born on this date:
 Tom Ziuko (1955)
 Chris Sprouse (1966)

SAT JUL 31

Born on this date:
 George Wildman (1927)
 Gary Barker (1957)
 N. Blake Seals (1970)
 Bradley Walton (1972)

Publishers

To see your comics listed here, please supply the exact shipping date for each title as soon as possible, preferably at least one month ahead of time. Send the information to: Maggie Thompson, CBG Calendar, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990. The same goes for any other announcements, additions, and corrections.

CBG Calendar Notes

Shows listed are multiple-day, non-mall-show events with the primary focus on comic books. Further information about these and other shows, as well as creator appearances, can be found each week in the CBG features *What*, *Where*, and *When* and *Now Appearing*.

- Visions '99 Expo, July 23-25 at the Bayside Expo Center in

Boston, Mass. Guests include: Brian Augustyn, Christopher Golden, Matt Hawkins, Joe Jusko, Matt Modell, James O'Barr, and Mike Wieringo. Hours: Friday 3-9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sunday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Admission: \$10/day; \$25/three days. Info: (508) 896-7448.

Continuing This Week

- **Cartoon Art Museum**, 814 Mission St., San Francisco, CA. Call for updates on current exhibits: (415) CAR-TOON.
- **International Museum of Cartoon Art**, 201 Plaza Real, Boca Raton, FL 33432. Call for updates on current exhibits: (561) 391-2200. **Current exhibit:** *Tarzan from Foster to Disney*, through Sept. 19. Tarzan art by Hogarth, Foster, Manning, and other talents who have worked on *Tarzan* strips and comic

books.

• **Krazy Kat Comes Home: The Cartoon Art of George Herriman**, an exhibit of comic-strip art by George Herriman, including watercolor illustrations, Sunday pages, and storyboards, on display through Aug. 29 at the Sedona Arts Center, Hwy 89A and Art Barn Rd., Sedona, AZ.

• **Marvelmania**, an exhibit of original art for Marvel comics of the '60s and '70s, will run through the summer at American Dream Gallery, 72 Walcott St., Bath, United Kingdom. Featured artists include Jack Kirby, Dick Ayers, Don Heck, John Romita, Gene Colan, Gil Kane, Marie Severin, Johnny Craig, and John Buscema. Info: 01225 424881.

New comics scheduled to ship this week

The following information is taken from publisher and distributor solicitations and updates and is as accurate as possible at press time. Check with your local retailer to find out what day new comics go on the shelves. Comics that are delayed or rescheduled will be tracked in future CBG Calendars.

Note: ○ indicates a rescheduled comic book that appeared in a previous CBG Calendar.

Archie Comics Publications

Archie Digest #166, \$1.99
 Jughead #121, \$1.79
 Veronica #92, \$1.79

Awesome Entertainment

- Allies #1, \$2.50 (Apr)
- Avengey #3, \$2.50 (Apr)
- Rob #1, \$2.50 (Apr)

Batant Comics

- Boob Raider: The Adventures of Lara Crotch #1,

\$2.95 (nude ed., \$9.95) (May)

Dark Horse

Blade of the Immortal: Heart of Darkness (1 of 8) #3, \$2.95
 Buffy the Vampire Slayer #11 (two covers), \$2.95
 Ghost Vol. 2 #11, \$2.95
 Grendel: Devil Child #2 (of 2), \$2.95
 Grendel: Devil Tales, \$9.95
 Madman Comics #15, \$2.95
 Sock Monkey #1 (of 2), \$2.95
 Star Wars #8, \$2.50
 Star Wars: Episode 1 The Phantom Menace: Queen Amidala (two covers), \$2.95

DC

Catwoman #72, \$1.99
 Detective Comics #736, \$1.99
 Dexter's Laboratory #1, \$1.99
 Divine Right #11, \$2.50
 ○ Divine Right Collected Ed. #3, \$5.95 (Jul. 18-24)

DV8 #30, \$2.50
 Flash #152, \$1.99
 Flinch #4, \$2.50
 Gen 13: Starting Over TPB, \$14.95
 Hellblazer #141, \$2.50
 Hitman #41, \$2.50
 JLA #33, \$1.99
 Legion of Super-Heroes #119, \$2.50
 Mr. Majestic #1, \$2.50
 Nightwing: Rough Justice TPB, \$17.95
 Robin #68, \$1.99
 Sandman Presents: Love Street #3 (of 3), \$2.95
 Supergirl #36, \$1.99
 Superman #148, \$1.99
 Wonder Woman Annual #8, \$2.95

Image Comics

Rising Stars #1, \$2.50

Marvel Comics

Astonishing X-Men #1 (of 3), \$2.50

Avengers #20, \$1.99
 Conan: Death Covered in Gold #1 (of 3), \$2.99
 Deadpool #32, \$1.99
 Earth X #6 (of 12), \$2.99
 Gambit #8, \$1.99
 J2 #12, \$1.99
 Nova #5, \$1.99
 Slingers #10, \$1.99
 Spider-Girl Annual #1, \$3.99
 Webspinners: Tales of Spider-Man #9, \$2.50
 Wolverine #142, \$1.99
 X-51 #2 (two covers), \$1.99
 X-Force #94, \$1.99
 X-Men Unlimited #24, \$2.99

Oni Press

Grrl Scouts #4 (of 4), \$2.95

Viz Communications

Pokémon: Electric Pichu Boogaloo #1, \$3.50
 Ramma 1/2 Part 8 #4 (of 13), \$2.95

Shipping notes and updates

• **Confirmed shipping:** We have received confirmation that the following titles have shipped and should be available in stores. This reflects shipping information received through July 9.

Aardvark-Vanaheim: *Cerebus* #244, \$2.25 (Jul)
ABC: *Double Impact: Suicide Run Collected*, \$3 (spec. eds., \$8 and \$10) (May)
Abdo: *John & Cori* #2, \$2.95 (May)
ACG: *Cop Called Tracy* #7, \$2.95 (Jul)
Dick Tracy: *Crimebuster* #6, \$2.95 (Jul)
**James O'Barr's Tasty Bits #1, \$2.95 (Jun)
**Johnny Comet #2, \$2.95 (May)
**New Adventures of Terry & the Pirates #5, \$2.95 (May)
Antarctic: *Darkshrine* #2 (of 2), \$2.50 (Jun)
**Deadforce #2 (of 3), \$2.99 (Jun)
**Warrior Nun Black & White #20, \$2.99 (May)
Archie: *Archie Double Digest* #110, \$2.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Betty & Veronica Summer Fun Special #6, \$2.29 (Jul. 4-10)
Cheryl Blossom #25, \$1.79 (Jul. 4-10)
Jughead with Archie Digest #151, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Knuckles #28, \$1.79 (Jul. 4-10)
Avatar: *Faust* #777: *The Wrath* #4 (of 4), \$3.50 (nude ed., \$6) (May)
Awesome: *Deity II: Catseye* #4, \$2.95 (Feb)
Big Baby: *Hero on a Stick* #1, \$2.95 (Jul)**********

Bomb Pop: *Bomb Pop Comics & Stories* #1, \$3.50 (Apr)
Boneyard: *Babylon Crush: Budha*, \$4.95 (May)
Caliber: *Seeker: Dawn of Armageddon*, \$3.95 (Mar)
Chaos: *Evil Ernie Depraved* #2 (of 3), \$2.95 (Jul)
Lady Death: The Rapture #3 (of 4), \$2.95 (Jul)
CPM: *Call Me Princess* #2, \$2.95 (Jun)
Geobreeders #4, \$2.95 (Jun)
Dark Horse: *Aliens vs. Predator Annual* #1, \$4.95 (Jul. 4-10)
Grendel: Devil Child #1 (of 2), \$2.95 (Jun. 27-Jul. 3)
Oh My Goddess! The Fourth Goddess #3 (of 8), \$2.95 (Jul. 4-10)
DC: *Advs. of Superman* #570, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Anarky #5, \$2.50 (Jul. 4-10)
Batman: The Book of Shadows, \$5.95 (Apr. 25-May 1)
Batman: Gotham Adventures #16, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #121, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Birds of Prey #9, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Books of Magic: Girl in the Box TPB, \$14.95 (Jul. 4-10)
Crimson #11, \$2.50 (Jul. 4-10)
Cruel and Unusual #4 (of 4), \$2.95 (Jul. 4-10)
Finals #1 (of 4), \$2.95 (Jul. 4-10)
Green Lantern Secret Files #2, \$4.95 (Jul. 4-10)
JLA Annual #3, \$2.95 (Jul. 4-10)

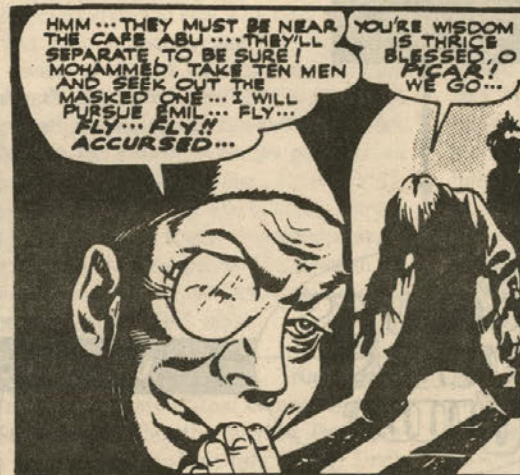
Legends of the DC Universe #20, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Looney Tunes #56, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Manhunter: The Special Ed., \$9.95 (Jun. 20-26)
Martian Manhunter #10, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
100 Bullets #2, \$2.50 (Jul. 4-10)
Preacher #53, \$2.50 (Jul. 4-10)
Shazam! Archives Vol. 2 (hardcover), \$49.95 (Jun. 27-Jul. 3)
Starman #57, \$2.50 (Jul. 4-10)
Superman Adventures #35, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Tom Strong #3, \$2.95 (Jul. 4-10)
Top Ten #1, \$3.50 (Jul. 4-10)
Young Justice #12, \$2.50 (Jul. 4-10)
Drawn & Quarterly: *Palooka-Ville* #13, \$3.75 (Mar)
Eric Thériault: *Veena* #2, \$2.95 (Jun)
Eternal: *Archangels: The Saga* #7, \$3.50 (Jun)
Fantagraphics: *Penny Century* #5, \$2.95 (Mar)
Pop Life #2, \$3.95 (Jan)
Fireman: *Gear* #6 (of 6), \$2.95 (Apr)
Five Star: *Morgan Stone* #1, \$2.95 (May)
Free Lunch: *Bigger: Will Rison & the Devil's Concubine* #4 (of 4), \$2.95 (Jun)
Image: *Cosmic Ray* #1, \$2.95 (Jun)
Crow #6, \$2.50 (Jul)
Kabuki #8, \$2.95 (Apr)
Image: *The Hero Discovered Book VI*, \$4.95 (Jan)
Spawn: The Undead #1, \$1.95 (Jun)
Trekker #1, \$2.95 (May)
Knightstone: *Tekken 2* #1, \$1.95 (spec. ed., \$2.95) (May)

London Night: *Razor/Poison/Arcata Warrior Nun: Little Bad Angels* (three covers), \$3.95 (May)
Marvel: *Cable* #71, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Cable Second Genesis, \$3.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Contest of Champions II #1 (of 5), \$2.50 (Jul. 4-10)
Daredevil #7, \$2.50 (Feb. 28-Mar. 6)
Deathlok #1, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Fantastic Four #21, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Inhumans #9 (of 12), \$2.99 (May 23-29)
Spider-Man: Chapter 1 #11 (of 12), \$2.50 (Jul. 4-10)
Spider-Woman #3, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Thor #15, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Uncanny X-Men #372, \$1.99 (Jul. 4-10)
Wolverine/Punisher: Revelation #3 (of 4), \$2.99 (Jun. 13-19)
Radio: *Milk* #11, \$2.95 (May)
Trouble Express #4 (of 4), \$2.95 (May)
Realm: *Battlestar Galactica Season 3* #1, \$2.99 (spec. ed., \$4.99) (Jun)
Red Ink: *Non* #4, \$3 (Apr)
Sirius: *Animal Mystic: Klor* #1 (of 3), \$2.95 (Jun)
Empty Zone #1, \$2.95 (Jul)
Mosaic #4 (of 5), \$2.95 (Jun)
Poison Elves #46, #47, \$2.50 (Jun, Jul)
Solson: *Best of Nightmare and Psycho Vol. 3*, \$19.95 (Jul)
United: *Wild Side* #6, \$3.95 (Jun)
Vanguard: *Tales from the Edge Bill Sienkiewicz Special* #15, \$4 (May)
Warp: *Elfquest Readers Collection Vol. 14A: Skyward Shadow*, \$11.95 (May 2-8)

THE SPIRIT



MEET P'GELL #10



WILL EISNER



The Spirit is available in comics shops. To order Will Eisner-related products, including graphic novels and art prints, call Poorhouse Press at (954) 726-4343, fax (954) 721-1823, or write Poorhouse Press, 8333 W. McNab Rd., Tamarac, FL 33321.

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POV

POINT OF VIEW

BY Mark EVANIER



I think this story may interest you. But, then, I've been wrong before.

One day in January of this year, I was loitering on the Internet, doing everything except what I was supposed to be doing, which was probably this column. On one of the newsgroups, I came across this message from a total stranger. It said, in part:

Can anyone tell me if any of the tour companies do a day tour to Disneyland from Vegas? Thanks!



"Disneyland can be a very confusing experience for a first-time visitor."

This was followed by replies from other total strangers, giving the names and numbers of various firms that offered such conveyance. No sooner had I read them than a little bell went off in my cerebellum and I posted the following:

Someone oughta suggest to you that, while there are such tours, this may not be a very good idea.

The bus ride between Vegas and Disneyland is around five hours. This means you spend five hours on a bus, then you'd get maybe five hours at Disneyland, then you spend another five hours on the bus back.

I dunno about you but, after five hours on a bus, I'd be in no shape to truly enjoy Disneyland. And you can't really do enough there in five hours, especially in the middle of the afternoon, which is how such a trip would time out.

If you've been to the Magic Kingdom, you know the best thing is to get there early, to not be in a hurry, and to be able to stay late if you feel like it. If you haven't been there, this is no way to experience it for the first time.

A day or three later, I checked back. Others had written messages of concurrence with mine, and the original questioner posted that our advice would be heeded, thank you very much. If I'd thought about it for more than two seconds, I'd have been pleased. There's something very warm and fuzzy about one total stranger being of aid to another.

Everyone lived happily ever after until a few days later, when a private e-mail arrived at Evanier-dot-com.

I'm reproducing it here almost verbatim, with two words redacted, through the magic of cut-and-paste. May the spell-checkers at Krause Publications forgive me ...

Who the [expletive denoting sexual contact deleted] asked you get mixed up in bussiness! My bussiness put food on famly tabel by day-tours to Disneyland. If peopel want go on trip none of YOUR bussiness if they get ripoff. Your probably one of those [derogatory term for homosexual deleted] longhair bleeding heart liberals BANS prayer in schools and burns american flag evry morning. Go out and sell country by peaces to China. Your not happy untill America criumbles and we are all slaves of the RED menance. Leave others go do things not your bussiness!!!

BUTT OUT!!!!!!!

Quite a message, wouldn't you say? I'm guessing top of his class at Harvard.

If more than five people on this planet read anything you write, you've probably had communi-ques of this sort in some venue. Crank letters, they call them. If you let them bother you even for a second, you're dumber than the folks who send them. When I get the paper kind, I usually find myself wondering how someone that stupid could earn enough of a living to purchase a stamp.

The fellow who wrote the above was, amazingly, able to afford a computer and an America Online account. Things must be going well in the bus tour business (excuse me — bussiness).

I'm oddly amused when people who are irate about one thing get going and, before you know it, they've unloaded about everything that upsets them and start connecting it all. If you do one thing they don't like, you must be part of the Grand Evil Conspiracy that is responsible for everything they find wrong with the world. And these folks usually have very long lists of outrages.

Just why this whole matter interests me has something to do with an image that flashed my way when I encountered that first message. I imagined a family visiting Las Vegas — a family from somewhere far away, probably another country. They're on unfamiliar turf, so, when someone mentioned Disneyland, they thought, "Gee, maybe we can see Las Vegas and Disneyland on the same vacation."

When they found out that such tours were offered, they were even less likely to consider that it might be unwise. It's like assuming that, if a restaurant has been in business for a while, the food there must be

good — or that, if someone has a certain job, he must know what he's doing. Can't we all name a dozen exceptions to this sort of rule?

Now, I'm sure most bus tours out of Vegas are fine, legit offerings by fine, legit operators. Some — like the Grand Canyon and ghost town tours — even sound like fun and may soon get my business. But I got to wondering if my gut was right on this one: that it was taken mostly by those who didn't know any better.

I decided to pursue the matter further, maybe even phoning the tour service that employed my friend, Mr. Butt Out!!!!!!! He'd kindly included its phone number in the tag-line of his erudite message. Investigating further, I felt, might strike a blow, however meek, for consumerism. Besides, I needed a column for this week.

So I skipped burning my American flag that day and canceled an appointment to auction Oregon to the highest Asian bidder. Instead, I spent the time doing a bit of research —

Several companies, it turns out, offer day tours between Disneyland and Las Vegas via bus, all with roughly this schedule: You're picked up at your hotel at 8:30 a.m., you get to Walt's Place around 1 p.m., the return bus leaves at 6:15 p.m., and you're back in Vegas around 10:45.

From the statue of The Unknown Mob Informant outside Caesar's Palace to the first churro cart in Disneyland is 257.7 miles — or almost double the length of the line to go on the Indiana Jones ride. That means that, in one day, you travel 515.4 miles plus whatever mileage you rack up on the Matterhorn bobsleds or those silly boats in "It's a Small World." Not one of those miles qualifies for Frequent Flyer credit.

Assuming your bus hits no traffic on the way there — good luck in Southern California — you get five hours and 15 minutes in the happiest place on Earth. Only it's really less than that.

When you arrive, the first thing you're going to want to do is hit the restroom. You'll also want to go at least one more time before you get back on the bus. So let's subtract 15 minutes for those two detours.

You'll also want to eat something upon arrival, which will coincide with the peak lunch hour. During that period, famished Disneyland-goers descend on the eateries like spoiled brats unleashed on Pleasure Island. Wrapping your molars around something edible can take 60-90 minutes, plus you'll probably want another bite before

getting on the bus for the 4.5 hour trip back. Let's say 90 minutes for both, and that's being conservative. So we're down to three and a half hours.

But wait. We haven't even talked about *finding* the restrooms, *finding* a place to dine, *finding* the attractions that attract you. If one of the fabled Disney parades erupts in your path, it can take 20 minutes to get from one side of Main Street to the other. And, if the bus home leaves at 6:15, you're not going to be riding teacups till 6:10. You're going to need to leave a safety margin to make sure you find your way back in time.

Disneyland can be a very confusing experience for a first-time visitor. Since no one but a first-time visitor would even consider such a pilgrimage, I think it's safe to lop another 45 minutes off, just for getting one's bearings and getting around.

So what are we down to? Two-forty-five? Two-forty-five. That isn't much at any time o' day but it's especially rough in the peak afternoon hours — which is, of course, just when you'll be there.

I checked out a website that tallies such things — not with the Disney blessing, natch — and it reports that, on a busy day, the afternoon wait for the Indiana Jones ride averages 55 minutes, while Splash Mountain and Star Tours clock 65 apiece. A busy day, by the way, means between 50,000 and 70,000 people at the park, all of whom are ahead of you in every line you pick to stand in.

Now, in fairness, not all the waits are that long. And one of the deep, dank secrets of Disneyland is that, when they post a 60-minute estimate for a queue, the actual wait-time is usually less. They deliberately exaggerate because, first of all, they want to discourage you from hitting the most popular attractions at peak hours. Second of all, they don't want you complaining, if something breaks down and it takes longer than expected for you to reach the boarding area.

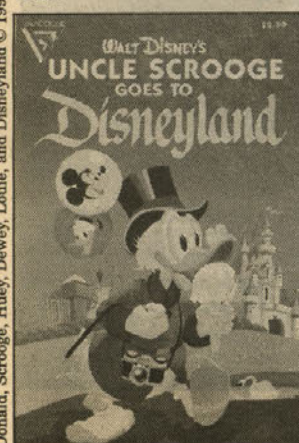
Still, it is not an exaggeration to say that, in two hours and 45 minutes of Disneyland, allowing for heavy congestion, you might make it through two of the top adventures and maybe two of the less-thrilling ones. You probably won't get a snapshot with Mickey but you might wrangle a photo op with one of the less-desirable Dwarfs — like, say, Doc. No one really wants a picture with Doc. Or Sleepy. Or Bashful, if you can even get him to pose.

So all of that — plus maybe one quick souvenir purchase — would constitute your day at the Magic

(Continues on Page 50)



Donald and his family probably didn't take the five-hour and 15-minute tour.



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Point of View

From
Page
48

Kingdom.

Boy, what a lousy way to experience Disneyland.

Total cost? It's \$130 per person, including admission to the park, plus you also have meals and souvenirs to buy. Some have suggested that the meals and souvenirs at Disneyland might just be a wee bit overpriced.

After I had all my info, I tried to set up the little phone tape recorder that I bought at Linda Tripp's garage sale along with much of my autumn wardrobe. It wasn't working, so I had to take notes, as I called the tour company in Vegas. The phone was answered, darn my luck, by a lady, not by the gent who'd sent me the psychotic e-mail. I did my best to sound utterly naive, which is a little like William Shatner playing an egoist. What follows is an excerpt from that call:

ME: So is this day trip to Disneyland popular?

Her: Very popular. In fact, it's probably our most popular tour.

ME: Because I notice you only offer it three days a week ...

Her: Well, we're shorthanded on drivers and buses. If we had more, we'd offer it every day.

ME: It sounds here like we only get a little over five hours at Disneyland.

Her: Oh, no. You get all afternoon. Plenty of time.

ME: But I'm looking at your website and it says we get dropped off at 1 and the bus leaves at 6:15 —

Her: There, you see? All afternoon.

ME: But isn't that five hours and 15 minutes?

Her: Oh, heavens, no. I haven't done the math on it but —

ME: Just how long does it take to do that math?

Her: Well, it's a long five hours and 15 minutes.

ME: Plenty of time to see everything? Do everything?

Her: Plenty of time.

ME: Because, you know, I'm bringing the four kids and I promised them they could ride Indiana Jones and the Matterhorn and Star Tours and Splash Mountain ...

Her: Plenty of time, plenty of time.

ME: And Abigail — she's the oldest — she insists we do ... Here, I've got a list: "It's a Small World, Sleeping Beauty's Castle, Pirates of the Caribbean, Haunted Mansion, Jungle Cruise, Mark Twain Riverboat, Great Moments with Mr. Lincoln,

Monorail, Mr. Toad's Wild Ride ..."

Her: You'll have time for all of those. Now, if you have a major credit card, I'd suggest you reserve —

ME: How about a parade? Little Jonathan loves parades.

Her: Time for all that. Now, if you have a major credit card —

ME: We'll be able to do all that in five hours?

Her: Five hours and 15 minutes.

ME: We'll be able to do all that in five hours and 15 minutes? Even a long five hours and 15 minutes? Plus eat and go to the bathroom?

Her: They're very short rides. Pirates of the Caribbean is only three minutes. [Note: According to official Disneyland press releases, Pirates lasts 14 minutes. That's not counting time spent in line or boarding.]

ME: How about the Submarine Ride? Will we be able to ride that?

Her: Absolutely. I wouldn't miss that, if I were you. Now, if you'd like to reserve spaces —

ME: Someone told me the Submarine Ride had been closed down.

Her: Oh, no. It's still there.

ME: Because Denise — she's my youngest — she'd be absolutely crushed, if she couldn't ride the submarines.

Her: She has nothing to worry about. I was there just a few weeks ago and I rode

it myself. I don't know how these stories get started. [Note: The Disneyland Submarine Ride was closed on 9/9/98, around 19 months before this call.]

ME: Well, OK. If you're sure we'll have enough time to do all those things...

Her: Hey, you can trust me. [Note: This was the first time in my life I'd ever spoken to this person, whose name I did not know.]

ME: Well, OK. We'll probably go for it.

Her: Lovely. Now, if you'll just give me a credit card number...

ME: Just hold six spaces for us. We'll pay you when we get there.

Her: I'm sorry, I can't hold seats on the bus for you without a credit card. We accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Diner's Club, and Discover Card.

ME: Hey, you can trust me. Oh, before I go — I got an e-mail on the Internet from someone who works for your company. He was kinda rude.

Her: Oh, that would be Mike. Yes, he gets a little worked up at times. But he has good reason — some of the things he comes across on the Internet ...

ME: What do you mean?

Her: Well, I don't like to speak ill of another human being. But there are people on the Internet who lie.

Mark Evanier gets his mail at PMB 303, 363 S. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036-3124 and on the net at me@evanier.com.

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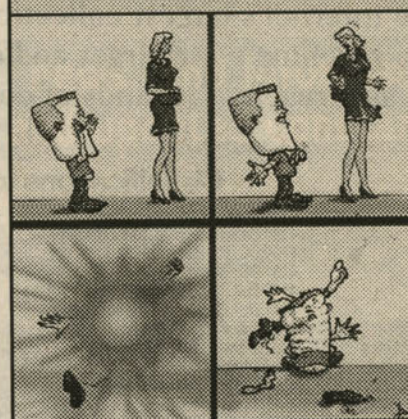
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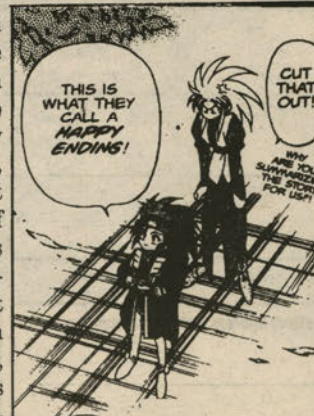
A frequent ingredient of black-and-white independent comics is the creator's perception of an audience which knows what's going on. It can limit the circulation but increases the enjoyment of the fans of the comics in question.

• A classic bunch of in-group folks are the growing number of readers of John Kovalic's *Dork Tower*. You've got comics about

games and people who love both. But you don't have to love games to love this terrific title, word is spreading, and its circulation is growing fast. Issue #4 (May 99, Corsair Publishing, P.O. Box 259836, Madison, WI 53725, \$2.95) deals with *Phantom Menace*, and #5 has a lot of short takes, including one on independent comics (see this sample).

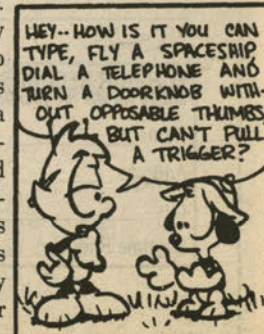
• Do you think of the Viz graphic novels as "independent" comics? To some, at least, they are — designed for a growing genre of in-group enthusiasts who enjoy the comics the more they read the stories. *No Need for Tenchi! Magical Girl Pretty Sammy* is a collection of a story arc by Hitoshi Okuda, adapted into English by Fred Burke. This Viz paperback has

been out for a while, but the book is not a bad place to start, oddly enough (Viz, \$15.95). It has some of the problems some complain about with manga (including, like this, ones based on anime), but character interplay and informal addressing of the audience (see above) are a couple of the endearing characteristics of some. The fantasy involves cute alien women after a bland Earth teen, nothing new for the genre there. But it's fun and fast-paced, and



emotional scenes are well-handled.

• There's not enough space here to convey the fun of Steve Troop's *The Ultimate Melonpool* (1999, Para-Troop, 306-N W. El Norte Pkwy, PMB 335, Escondido, CA 92026, \$19.95), but it'd be so great if more comics were released in this form. This "comic strip about three aliens, a clone, a telepathic dog, and a 220-lb. hamster who try to blend into Earth society" is presented in a generous collection packed with generous annotations and samples from the very start. You'll hear of this again.



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Advertising deadline is:

Tuesday, Aug. 3, 1999 for the Aug. 27, 1999 issue.

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Mail to:
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Dept. CX, 700 E. State Street
Iola, WI 54990-0001

4401 ORIGINAL ART, WANTED

ART ADAMS: Longshot #6 pages, any cover/ pinup; John Buscherna Conan Covers, Neal Adams, Adam Hughes, Paul Gulacy, Mark Bright, Ironman 215 & 216 covers. 415-953-4465.

LOOKING FOR original art pages from Brave and Bold #181 and 182. Willie Costello, 176 Park Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611. e-mail: wjccpmst@aol.com or FAX 203-268-1047.

LOOKING FOR original art pages from Flash #180 through #190. Willie Costello, 176 Park Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611. e-mail: wjccpmst@aol.com or FAX 203-268-1047.

LOOKING FOR original art pages from Aquaman #49 through #56 (1962 series). Willie Costello, 176 Park Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611. e-mail: wjccpmst@aol.com or FAX 203-268-1047.

LOOKING FOR Sugar and Spike (Sheldon Mayer) original art. Willie Costello, 176 Park Lane, Trumbull, CT 06611. e-mail: wjccpmst@aol.com or FAX 203-268-1047.

BIGGEST DICK Tracy original art collector in the world giving best deals. Buying, trading, selling. Matt Masterson, 31 Maplewood, Malden, MA 02148. 781-322-2605.

COLLECTOR SEEKS Horror art from 1950-1955. Any company, except EC. Splashes, Stories, Covers, anything! Highest prices paid. email: Rock99@prodigy.net

COLLECTOR SEEKS horror art. Splashes, stories, covers from standard, superior, Ajax, Atlas, comic media. Highest cash paid. 201-750-1164, rock99@prodigy.net

WANTED: ORIGINAL cover art to Outer Limits #5 (Dell Comics 1965). Tom Callahan, 328 Beach Ave., Staten Island, NY 10306. E-mail: sphinx0614@aol.com

COLLECTOR SEEKS Horror art from 1950-1955. Any company, except EC. Stories, splashes, covers, anything! Highest prices paid! rock99@prodigy.net

WANTED FRANK Cho and Mike Hoffman art, send info to: Eriem Merritt, 817 Ruswood Rd., Winder, GA 30680. 770-867-8258.

4410 BIG LITTLE BOOKS, FOR SALE

OVER 1,000 1933-1950, plus related rare items. List \$2 (refundable). "Want lists" welcome. Ken Mitchell, 710 Conacher Dr., Willowdale, Ont., Canada, M2M3N6.

4420 BOOKS-GENERAL, FOR SALE

SUPERMAN 30s to 70s, book VF+, \$50 ppd. Patrick Woodrofe's Pastures In The Sky, book NM, DJ F, \$20 ppd. Lanny 937-372-7259.

AD&D HARDCOVERS for sale. Price range \$5-\$15, except Deities/ Demigods first print, \$60. Fiend Folio, \$10. Unearthed Arcana, \$51 S&H extra. Eric 410-644-8537.

RICK BRANT #10 Golden Skull Fine, plus #17 Flaming Mountain, Good shape, both for \$75. Ed 201-445-2907 or chowing1@aol.com

MIKE BENTON'S The Illustrated History, Horror comics, HC. OP, NM, \$25 plus postage. Call John 212-556-4758 leave message.

PSYCHOTRONIC VIDEO guide #2. Large softcover book \$25 ppd. Pulp Art by Robert Lesser. Hard cover, \$25 ppd. James 770-428-8288.

SUPERMAN, BATMAN, Lone Ranger, (plus all sound serials) To Be Continued (Weiss/ Goodgold), 1972, jacket, \$45 postpaid. Gordon Sclar, 5010 Lakeview, Fayetteville, NY 13066. 315-637-8549.

MATT GROENING books; six books in the hell series- love, work, school, etc. Six books Mint, \$25. \$3 postage. G. Tilley, 2416 Delaware, Springfield, IL 62702.

JAMES BAMA "Art of" hardcover, \$40 postpaid. Included: Small Indian print signed by Bama! Rodney Schroeter, Box 370528, Milwaukee, WI 53237-0528. sreels@execpc.com

ERB JUNGLE Tales Tarzan book 1940s and DC Comics Tarzan of Apes 1st DC No. 207 VG \$55/ both. Defina, PO Box 172541, Hialeah, FL 33017.

THE VERY Best of Marvel Comics SC 1991 Mint \$15 plus postage. Manny Sternschein, 711 Shore Rd., Long Beach, NY 11561. 516-432-3442.

ZIGGY'S SUNDAY Funnies 1981 HC \$20. The Ziggy Treasure 1977 SC \$15. Both plus postage. Manny Sternschein, 711 Shore Rd., Long Beach, NY 11561. 516-432-3442.

FAZZETTA: ICON, the ultimate Fazzetta book! Bookstore price \$30, my price \$22 postpaid. Orders to: Feduniewicz, Box 1016, Island Heights, NJ 08732.

WOOD'S WIZARD King HC plus the King of the World, color reprint, \$60 postpaid. Jeff Olson, 1511 NW 105th Lane, Coon Rapids, MN 55433.

CHARLES VESS, "Little Red Riding Hood" S/N HC, NM \$70 postpaid. Mike Benton's "Science Fiction Comics" HC VF+ \$40 postpaid. John 212-556-4758.

TIME-LIFE Enchanted World, complete 21 volume set, NM in shipping cartons, all 1st prints, \$350 ppd. Lanny 937-372-7259.

HOPALONG CASSIDY Hardcover "Bar-20" by Clarence Mulford. G&D. FN in VG dj (Maynard Dixon cover). \$19 ppd/ ins. Frank Frieta, 16279 Laurie Ann, Redding, CA 96001-9626.

4421 BOOKS-GENERAL, WANTED

"WAR AND Peace" wanted, Franklin Library Edition with Barron Storey Illustrations; also "Chutes Libres" French Kaluta book. Brain Postman, 238 East 24th St., #2A, New York, NY 10010.

L'I' ABNER Kitchen Sinks hardbacks, Vols. 1-3, 10-13, 26, 27 wanted. e-mail: dapp993@aol.com or call 312-427-8452 8-10pm Central time.

BIG LITTLE Books wanted: 30s & 40s, all titles. Joe Tricarich, 2520 Ashurst Rd., Cleveland, OH 44118. 216-932-8596.

PETER STRAUB Hardcover books, signed/ limited editions, magazine appearances, and related ephemera. Paul Iacono, 610 Surrey Glen Circle, Hendersonville, NC 28739-9731.

SEDUCTION OF The Innocent by Wertham wanted. Dale Cendali, 37 Crest Dr, White Plains, NY 10607. 212-326-2051.

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COMICS, PAPERBACKS, videos for sale. Send want list: The Funnies Farm, 1A Ward St., Suffern, NY 10901. 914-369-0845. E-mail: msgr4289@aol.com

DREAM QUEST of Unknown Kadath- Lovecraft, Bal Adult Fantasy 01923, 1st, 70, VG+ \$7.50 ppd. Charles Ewy, 918 Coteswood Circle, Cockeysville, MD 21030. 410-667-6747.

TV MOVIE tie-in paperbacks. Some hardbacks. Many old favorites. List available. D. Mark Simpson, 482 Hudson St., Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, Canada, P6C-3P5. Narf!

500+ PAPERBACKS, sold as lot, \$1,500 OBO; worth \$3,800+, shipping costs not included. For list send 77¢ SASE: Sinky, 10 Cottage Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308. 718-984-4847.

MAXWELL GRANT 1970's paperbacks with Steranko covers. 6 different. \$10 each plus \$3.50 per order shipping. James Maxwell, Box 367, Lampeter, PA 17537. 717-464-5572.

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WANTED PHANTOM, Famous Monsters, Prisoner, Vampirella, Operator 5, EC Reprint, Doc Savage Doubles & Omnibuses, Tower Superhero. Send lists w/ prices. Shira, 1830 N. 12th St., Phoenix, AZ 85006.

DOC SAVAGE, REH. Burroughs, Man From Uncle. Will purchase singles or complete collections. Mike McKenzie, 6501 Chantilly, Sykesville, MD 21784. 410-795-5510. altworld@aol.com

THE PHANTOM #13 (Avon books), "The Island of Dogs". Send condition description and selling price to: Al, 849 Fernview Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141.

LONE RANGER: Secret of Thunder Mountain 1940, LA Bantam Books #14. Buy, borrow, rent! John Rose, PO Box 728, LaCrosse, KS 67548. 785-222-3657.

CAPT. AMERICA Avengers paperbacks with painted covers from 1960's wanted. Send prices, also famous monsters paperbacks too! Patrick Horgan, Box 158, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569.

4440 PULPS, FOR SALE

CAPTAIN SATAN Xerox copy covers, April and July 1938, \$30 each including shipping. Neil 905-820-7572 or e-mail: girasol@interlog.com

ASTOUNDING STORIES pulps for sale or trade 1934 thru 1965. A new complete set over 250 issues, for pulps or comics need 708-499-1056.

4441 PULPS, WANTED

WEIRD TALES with Brundage covers. Also Spicy's wanted in nice condition. David King, 16012 Meridian N, Shoreline, WA 98133. cdjking@aol.com

4450 MAGAZINES, FOR SALE

SCARLET STREET, Filmfox #1 and upward. LSASE or e-mail for list. Scott, 14 Oxford St., Dept. FF, Melrose, MA 02176. E-mail: monstershop@earthlink.net

FILMFAX #4, 5, 22, 28, 52, 59. Tough issues, great shape. Set \$150. More details Fax 718-646-0211. Yawien, 2625 Emmons Ave., #3-B, Brooklyn, NY 11235.

COMICS RETAILER Mag. #1-2, 8-9, 14-16, 18-42, 44-72, 75-87. All kinds of inside industry info, \$100 postpaid. Guido, #1 Screamer Dr., Clayton, GA 30525. 706-782-3318.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICS 8/1911, \$19; 2/1914, \$15; 9/1914 \$15; 4 diff. 1915 \$15; 1916-60! Complete \$2-20, VG-VF, Trades? Sure! Pre-1960 comics. FR-VG FN. Rick 916-568-7711. richardp@statenet.com

BLOODY BEST of Fangoria #1 VF-NM \$35 postpaid. Title #1 1972 \$6 postpaid. 100 comics \$19.95 postpaid. Bob Ranken, 25012 Wiley Canyon Rd., Newhall, CA 91321.

CREEPLY, EERIE, Monsters Unleashed, Frankenstein, Vampire Tales, Tales of Zombie, Weird, Psycho, Nightmare. Send want lists. The Book Stop, 226 East Meadow Ave., East Meadow, NY 11554. 516-794-9129.

1965 MUNSTERS Fine \$65. 1961 Spacemen #1 F/VF \$110. 1960 Wildest Westerns #5 F/VF, #6 VG, \$30 each. 1958 TV Westerns #2 VG \$35. 618-398-2673.

MAD MAGAZINE collection 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s. 184 issues. Jim Burke, 61 Parker St., Freehold, NJ 07728.

STARLOG MAGAZINE from #1 up. Various condition for less than \$2 each in quantity. Write to: Howard Michaels Jr., 706 North Cottage, Mercer, PA 16137-5310.

COMICS JOURNAL VF/NM #76 Wrightson, #81 EC-Gaines; #102 Hal Foster; #125 Berke Breathed; \$12 each ppd. Cliff Gemmell, POB 740982, Arvada, CO 80006. 303-424-8762. seagem@mstg.net

TABOO 2/50 Flip 7/46 Focus 10/50 PIC 9/45 LGE Format men's mags. As a lot \$28 pp. Dean, 8010 Esperanza Bay, Boynton Beach, FL 33436.

FILMFAX #4, #5, #22, #28, #52, #59. Tough issues, great shape. Set \$150. More details fax 718-646-0211. Yawien, 2625 Emmons Ave #3-B, Brooklyn, NY 11235.

4451 MAGAZINES, WANTED

COMICS BUYER'S Guide back issues wanted, from 1990-1996 and 1992-1993 annuals. Corey Tacker, E-mail: cwt97a@timon.acu.edu or 915-692-4926.

HOT ROD cartoons wanted 1967-1970. Send list. L.B. Smith, Box 664, Plover, WI 54467.

COMIC BOOK Marketplace #1-28, 32-38, 40-44, 51, 53, 54, 56, wanted in Good condition. L. Florio, 157 E. Church St., Bergenfield, NJ 07621-1831. Send list.

GIRLIE MAGS wanted from 1954 to mid-70s. Adam, Modern Man, Figure, Nudist, all titles. Send list. Bill Megvery, 1733A N. Larrabee, Chicago, IL 60614.

HARSH MISTRESS Science Fiction Magazine #1; Mike Shayne Mystery Magazine February 1968. Name your price. Bill Finocchiaro, 611 Kimball Ave., Fulton, NY 13069. 315-593-3454.

CREEM MAGAZINE Circa 1982-1988, any condition. Matt Biswell, 1626 Rossi St., Boise, ID 83706-3354.

NATURALIST (NUDIST) material wanted. Buying non-airbrushed mags, books, etc. Send lists with issue number, year and conditions. S. Dowdy, 5120 North Spring, Roanoke, VA 24019.

LINZI, ADELE, Veronka, Vanessa, Katie, Carrie, Samme, Sarah layouts. Mayfair men only Parade Magazines. Bennett, 739 Dumont Pl., N. Woodmere, NY 11581.

"ESCAPADE" C. 1964 with story Orpheus with Clay Feet by Jack Dowland, Future 6/54, 10/54 1956 (#29). Don Walsh, 323 Buchanan, Alexandria, VA 22314-2105. 703-548-5742.

CREEPLY ISSUE #137 needed to complete my collection. Will pay \$10 for a nice copy. Call Marc at 916-721-0576. Uncle Creepy lives!

FILMFAX RECENT issues #69/70 (double issue) and #72. Hullinger, RR 6 Box 108, Decatur, IL 62521-8826.

MARVEL SUPER Special #1 featuring Kiss wanted in VF/NM to NM condition. Please reply to: Craig Donnellan, 10 Beck Ct., Kendall Park, NJ 08824 or craig.e.donnellan@mail.sprint.com

WANTED: SAVAGE Sword of Conan. High grades only. Need many issues. John Snyder, 120 E. Franklin St., Hamilton, NJ 08610. E-mail: madzombi@gateway.net. Buy or trade.

4452 SCIENCE FICTION, FOR SALE

STAR WARS Blueprints, 1977, Ballantine, NM \$50 postpaid. Cinefantastique "Making of Star Wars" issue 1977, VF/N+ \$35. Brian Evans, 1237 2145 Dr. Eckert, CO 81418.

STAR TREK 3-3/4" Aliens, Rigellian Zaranite, Megante, Arcturian, all on original cards. Good, \$200 each, all \$700. Rogofsky, Box 107-CB, Glen Oaks, NY 11004.

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STAR WARS Marvel comics NM-Mint #1 \$29.50, #1-107, Ann/KingSize 1-3, Movie #1, ROTJ 1-4, all bagged, \$779.50. 254-634-4902. David Curtis, 1806 Sycamore, Killeen, TX 76543.

4600 REPRINTS, FOR SALE

STEVE CANYON, #1-9, 11-15, 17-21 Kitchen Sink, all magazines G/VG, \$4 each. Alfred Farrugio, 21 W. Lyons St., Melville, NY 11747.

TERRY AND The Pirates #1-7, Flying Buttress set of 7. All G/VG, \$21 plus S/H. Alfred Farrugio, 21 W. Lyons St. 11747.

PRINCE VALIANT Fanta-Graphics Vols. 8-25 Mint \$125 ppd. Include SASE with check. John Cody, 6 Williams Rd., Lynnfield, MA 01940.

GOODMAN BEAVER! HC signed by Kurtzman, Elder, XLNT condition, \$50 postpaid. Neil Neches 718-743-6992. dannysmom@aol.com

DICK TRACY'S Fiendish Foes! 309 pp., SC, 1991. VF/NM six stories plus Gould interview. \$18 plus \$4 S/H. Al, 849 Fernview St. Louis, MO 63141.

4610 PORTFOLIOS/POSTERS FOR SALE

FAZZETTA: ICON (book) \$20; Val Mayerick: Poster for Jackson, Michigan Comicon 1975 (B&W 14x19" rolled) \$15. Add \$2 post/ins. Polwort, POB 5152, St. Louis, MO 63139.

RAY HARRYHAUSEN, him and all his monsters, full color poster (22x27) rolled, \$25. Kenneth Arnold, Flying Saucers, \$3. Dallmeier, 9047 Aero Dr., Pico Rivera, CA 90660.

ROY KRENKEL: Seven Wonders of the Ancient World Portfolio \$38 postpaid. Rare Kaluta comic art gallery poster \$53, postpaid. Feduniewicz, Box 1016, Island Heights, NJ 08732.

4630 TRADING CARDS FOR SALE

CARD SETS \$5 and up; also display boxed, wax wrappers, promos, etc. 2 stamps for list. Lanny Burton, 439 Bedford Ave., Xenia, OH 45385.

SELLING CCG Star Trek, STNG, Star Wars, Babylon 5, Overpower and all expansions, low Scrye prices. 254-634-4902. David Curtis, 1806 Sycamore, Killeen, TX 76543.

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WACKY PACKAGES 1st series tan backs available, rare, \$50 each. Call with want list. Marc 516-829-8376.

NON-SPORTS SETS, \$5 each; Ghost, Vertigo, Valiant Era I & II, Judge Dredd. Epics and movies. Robert Sands, 65 Fox Chapel Dr., Orchard Park, NY 14127.

HOTSHOTS III, V, VII; Hustler II, III; Penthouse Returns II; GGG II, III; pinup photographs GPPD, SASE. Louis Bosse, 1120 Aurora, Muskegon, MI 49442-5932.

POKEMON PIKACHU game card limited edition promo Gold E3 imprinted on card. Very rare. Only \$8 postpaid. Serge Fidlon, 19221 Sherman Way #21, Reseda, CA 91335.

POKEMON GAME cards. Jungle booster packs. Rare 1st edition \$8 each, 3 for \$21 postpaid. Serge Fidlon, 19221 Sherman Way #21, Reseda, CA 91335.

BOWMAN BASEBALL I 1999 unopened wax box \$54.95, 1998 Bowman Baseball II unopened waxbox \$54.95, postage \$2. Eagle Collectibles, 3338 Appel, Bethel Park, PA 15102. 412-831-3989.

BUFFY VAMPIRE Slayer factory sealed season one premium set \$12, 10 for \$100, shipping \$2/5. Atlas, POB 25095, Overland Park, KS 66225. 913-345-1069. chris@atlas.comics.com

ECLIPSE TRADING Cards: Medal of Honor, Drug Wars, Negro Leagues sets. All 3, \$15 postpaid. David Allen, 125 W. 7th St., Claremont, CA 91711.

PHANTOM MENACE Set \$9. ID4, Silver Age, Star Trek, Xena, Lost in Space: SkyBox Master Series Chase cards; sets cheap. Rick's, PO Box 126, Crescent OK 73028.

SUPERMAN! RETURN of/ Death of complete card set with chase and promos in limited binder. \$100! Send SASE. Cards, 5706 Broadway-6, Pearland, TX 77581. 281-997-7506.

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WACKY PACKAGES wanted. Will buy all original art work and uncut sheets, will also pay a finders fee for any information that results in a sale. Eric Roberts, 260 Atherton Ave., Atherton, CA 94027. 650-327-6570 or 650-326-8708.

STAR WARS promo cards/ sheets! Over 30 different available! Plus exclusive signed cards by Perez, Dorman, Sprouse, Stout, Kane, Quesada! Free shipping! Leave address! 248-442-7226.

SETS: MYTH or Real; Battle Between Two Planets; Backyard Birds; Beautiful People; Birds of Prey; Busch Gardens. Edward Moriarty, PO Box 4595, Oakbrook, IL 60522-4595.

WANT CONAN 1988 singles, will buy or trade. Charles Johnson, 741 First Ave., Gibbon, MN 55335.

4660 MISCELLANEOUS, FOR SALE

SPORTS CARDS & memorabilia collectors: Buy and sell with the biggest and best collectors in the world. Place your classified ad in Sports Collectors Digest, 40,000 weekly readers. The hobby's oldest, most respected magazine. We are the "bible" of the industry. Bonus: Your classified ad also goes up on the Internet at no additional charge! Call today: 800-942-0673.

CHARLTON HESTON 5x7 color autographed photo, \$12 postpaid. Approx. 100 celebrities available, low as \$6 each postpaid. John Travali, 217 New Road, Wilmington, DE 19805.

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ODD BURROUGHS collectible: Tarzan, The Jungle Prince coloring books. Two different. One: \$5 postpaid, both \$8 postpaid. Feduniewicz, Box 1016, Is. Hts., NJ 08732.

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TRADING, SELLING cards, comics, toys, paperback books, fast food items, more. Get my list, send yours: CM Taylor, 6708 Parsons Blvd. #6B, Flushing, NY 11365.

WHERE CAN you find "Elves" dressed like Elvis, a living head in a jar, outrageous humor & a talking monkey sidekick? Adam Bomb #1 <http://www.bluemonkeycomics.com>

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SETS: BATMAN 417-420 NM \$25. Batman Legends 6-10 NM \$6. Detective 622-624 NM (Sprang) \$5. Moonshadow 1st 1-12 VF-NM \$14. Stardust 1-4 NM \$12. David 501-521-0526.

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TRACI LORDS 6" stand-up "Not of This Earth". Best offer by September gets it! Jeff Gelb, R&R, 10100 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90067.

BOOK POTATO Literary Agency. Representing writers. In person, Saturday 2-5pm at Good Books, Smithfield, NC. 919-989-8209 or 252-758-8664. Book Potato, PO Box 603, Greenville, NC 27835. <http://members.aol.com/bookpotato>

STAR WARS Episode I fast food game medallions. 65¢ each. 10/\$5. Send wants and payment. Fax 718-646-0211. Bill Yawien, 2625 Emmons Ave. #3-B, Brooklyn, NY 11235.

ODD BURROUGHS collectible: Tarzan, The Jungle Prince coloring books. Two different: one \$5 postpaid, both \$8 postpaid. Feduniewicz, Box 106, Island Heights, NJ 08732.

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VIDEO HORROR! B-Movie Classics! Them! Phantom Planet! Killer Shrews! Invaders from Mars! Many others! All pre-recorded! \$10 each. SASE. B-Horror, 5706 Broadway-6, Pearland, TX 77581.

RADIO AND Cereal premiums (Metal and paper) decoders, BLB's, etc. 1930's- 1940's. List \$1. Ken Mitchell, 710 Conacher Dr, Willowdale, ONT Canada, M2M 3N6.

1963 "SUPERMAN" Steve Allen 8x10, inscribed. 1961 Alley Awards original redwood trophy. 1933 Chicago Expo postcards. SASE. Foss, HCR 3, Box 40, Birchtree, MO 65438.

KRAFT DC Super Heroes Balancing toy, set of 3: Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, \$30 set, ppd. MO. Check. Tom DeStefano, 7629 W Norridge St., Harwood Heights, IL 60706-3348.

4661 MISCELLANEOUS, WANTED

FANTASTIC FOUR 3 part animated Inhumans saga, on one tape, SP mode. E-mail: wschelly@aol.com or 206-363-1562, leave message. (Video quality is important!)

WANTED: "ARKHAM Asylum" entrance archway structure from Kenner's Batman/ Two-face twin pack action figure set. Mike Jaje, 600 Oak Terrace Dr. #B-21, Leesburg, FL 34748.

HOT WHEELS cars and accessories from the 1960s and 1970s. I'll buy one car to whatever. Dig through those closets and call me! Gene 281-347-0648.

LOOKING TO buy old metal guitar, National or Dobro, in Good condition. Send info. Need Spider-Girl #0. Tom Vanko, 1527 Somerset, Munster, IN 46321-4387.

GERI HALLIWELL Fanatic wants photos, magazines, cheap, especially nudes. Throwing out Spice Girls junk? Mail to me free! Also Sarah Lancaster. Lee, 2839 Marlbank, Sterling, MI 48310.

VHS TAPE: "These are the Damned". Quotes to: David Hissong, 17931 New Gambier Rd., Mount Vernon, OH 43050.

LET'S TRADE! Send me a horror comic (any company, title) and I'll send you 20 different sports cards. Frank Lloyd, POB 270, Richwood, WV 26261.

FRANKLIN MINT items. Medals, displays, Star Trek items. Pewter figures and die cast cars. Jim Crane, 15 Clemson Ct, Newark, DE 19711. 302-738-6031.

WANTED: TOYBIZ 10" Marvel figures, projector figures, Deluxe Spiderman, Mary Jane, Wolverine, Ghost Rider collector series. Hal Reed, 320 Parkshore Dr., Columbia, SC 29223.

JOHNNY LIGHTING "White Lightning" VW bus from series 2 "Classic Gold" collection wanted MOC. Bryan, 4257 Lester NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. E-mail: dilbert@aol.com

WANTED PAUL Reid Smith guitar, Alesis, Quad-Reverb, Marshall Speaker cabinet, will trade my ASM #1 Fine. 904-755-9278.

HOT WHEELS cars and accessories from the 1960's and 1970's. I'll buy one car to whatever. Dig through those closets and call me! Gene 281-347-0648.

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MODEL KITS: Plastic, resin and vinyl. From and of comics, Sci-Fi, TV, movies, space, figures, etc. Old and new, hundreds available. Free sales catalog, we also buy and trade. JF Green Models, Dept. CBG, PO Box 55787, Riverside, CA 92517. 909-684-5300, 800-807-4759, Fax 909-684-8819, e-mail: cbg@greenmodels.com website: <http://www.greenmodels.com>

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STALLONE OVER The Top 20" figure. NRFB, \$50 check or MO. John Graham, 11334 Hwy 19W, Loris, SC 29569. \$90 value according to White's Guide.

THREE FLYING Marvels. 1940s Punch-out toy. In original envelope, unpunched and unassembled. \$18 plus \$4 S/H. Al, 849 Fernview Dr., St. Louis, MO 63141.

TOBRUK: LIMITED edition first run Avalon Hill game for Origins One. One only, used, parts Excellent \$30. Gernert, SHV 2110 Payne St., Louisville, KY 40206.

MCDONALD'S HAPPY Meal display. 1995s Spider-Man display with all 8 toys. Toys removable for play. \$40 ppd. Ivan Martin, 4054 70th St., Urbandale, IA 50322. spideyivan@aol.com

1966 CAPT. Action Capt. America costume Mint store stock ring MIB, \$2,500/ BO. Phantom MIB store stock \$1,300/ BO. More CA items. Curtis 415-386-5242.

STAR WARS: Empire Strikes Back lunch box (with thermos)! \$50 ppd. Bob Craig, PO Box 1184, Lockport, NY 14095. 716-439-6172.

TOYS- BATMAN, Star Trek, Star Wars, Spawn, X-Men more. Will sell bulk. J. Wallace, 6905 E. 116th St. #4, Kansas City, MO 64134. E-mail: jicomics@aol.com

CLOAK AND DAGGER Limited Edition Action Figure set with exclusive collector tin (1997) \$17 postpaid. CBG Ad #10, Frank Reno Jr., 2089 Silverado Ct., Pensacola, FL 32506. katgumby@aol.com

FIREBALL, KING Kong, Untouchables, Disneyland, Zorro, Hamilton Invaders. Hundreds of toy playset instructions photocopies. LSASE illustrated catalog. Biff Smith, 1344 West Flower, Phoenix, AZ 85013.

STAR WARS POTF (1985) unopened, Warok, Gold Coins, Plastic yellowed, scuffing on card, (cool Ewok) \$55 money order. PO Box 4765-KH, Clearwater, FL 33758.

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POWERPUFF GIRLS items; also interested in children's programs, Bozo type, that are regional local shows. Charles Kline, PO Box 791, Cleveland, MS 38732-0791.

SUPERMAN WANTED! If you're reading this ad, you must have some old Superman stuff to sell... write! Danny Fuchs, 209-80 18th Ave., Bayside, NY 11360. superdf2@aol.com

MAJOR MATT Mason, Bill Blastoff, Colorform Aliens, Zeroids, other 1960's astronaut and space toys. Also MMMs or Marvelmania items. Ray 323-663-4578. Ray.kolasa@unistudios.com

WEIRD OHS Model kits from Testors. Send list to Denis Schwendemann, 108 Roy St., #B-23, Seattle, WA 98109.

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COMICS BUYER'S Guides back issues #17 to #1220. NM condition. List sent with SASE. \$650 includes shipping. Bobb Lynes, PO Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031.

COMIC READER #161-#191 (set). Overstreet price guide #17-#28 (set). Superhero merchandise catalogs (set of ten). Toth, RR 1 Box 5975, Smithfield, ME 04978. 207-362-6449.

PULP FANZINES! Bronze Gazette! Barsoomian! Burroughs Bibliophile! ERB-DOM! Conan Companion! Burroughs Bulletin! Pulp Collector! Echoes! More! 818-782-9476 or mvscreen@aol.com

STEPHEN KING plus other horror 'zines and collectibles. Send long SASE for list. James Van Hise, 57754 Onaga Trail, Yucca Valley, CA 92284.

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RBCC 99, 111, 138, 140, 147, VG+ \$5. #151 Harlan Ellison issue \$10 postpaid. James Cassara, PO Box 18553, Asheville, NC 28814. jicassara@aol.com

THE COMICS Journal- Seven issues for \$10. Will Day, PO Box 131, Eddington, ME 04428.

MYSTERYMAN'S CREATOR'S 1st published work! Visions #1-3, Flaming Carrot #1, \$300 ppd! MO! FC#1 is Killian. Jaxon, 3425 E. Chandler Blvd., #224, Phoenix, AZ 85044.

1960'S- 1980'S list \$1 plus Hogan's Alley, 3-5 near mint. Best offers. Ken Mitchell, 710 Conacher Drive, Willowdale, ONT. Canada, M2M3N6.

4801 FANZINES, WANTED

FREAKIE MAGNET #1, 5; Amazing World of DC Comics #2; Anything with Bode! Gothic Blimp Works #2. Jeff Mirrone, Box 2212, Hollister, CA 95024.

COMIC READER issues with covers by Paul Gulacy wanted. 1970s previews type fanzine. (Do any exist?) Dave, 1166A W. Middle Tpke., Manchester, CT 06040.

4900 NEWSPAPER STRIPS, FOR SALE

PICK OUT dates. Daily and Sunday. Great Selection. 1895 to 1998. Send your wantlist and SASE to: Gordon Campbell, 1124 Brookmeade Drive, Nashville, TN 37204.

ASSORTED SUNDAY strips and sections. \$1 catalog refundable. 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s. Send want list. Bill Coble, 331 N. Roosevelt, Shawnee, OK 74801. 405-275-4004.

FINALLY! HOGAN'S Alley screensavers are available online: <http://www.cagle.com/hogan> Jack Cole fans, get issue #6! Hogan's Alley, POB 47684, Atlanta, GA 30362. Sample \$7.

LONE RANGER 44 1948-1/3, \$31. Rusty Riley 24 1949-1/3, \$17.50. Tarzan 41 1955-56-1/3, \$33. Many more. Puff, 500 Walton, Cheektowaga, NY 14225. 716-834-0996.

PRINCE VALIANT Sundays, 128 pages, 1968, 1970-1972. Sold as lot, only \$64 including shipping, handling, insurance. Stryk, 10 Cottage Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308. 718-984-4847.

DOONESBURY SUNDAY strips for sale. 1972 to present. \$10 each or \$20 for all. Robert Farney, PO Box 341071, Milwaukee, WI 53234. 414-546-4627. rfarney@execpc.com

MENOMONEE FALLS Gazette 41-98, 126-232, singles \$2 each. Doubles \$4 each. Priority mail, insurance extra. Inquire 716-882-2875. Donald Whyte, 46 Greenwood Place, Buffalo, NY 14213-1424.

PRINCE VALIANT Sunday pages for sale, SASE for lists. Prince Valiant Companion \$100, postpaid. Todd Goldberg, 215 Holmcrest Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046. E-mail: tgoldberg@aol.com

STAR WARS! 3/11 to 8/6/79 minus 1 Sunday and 2 dailys, Mint, \$10 shipping. MO! \$300! Jaxon, 3425 E. Chandler Blvd. 224, Phoenix, AZ 85044.

WHO KNOWS When we'll meet again? Big Flat City fades into alternative comic strip history with final ad. 1988-1996. <http://members.aol.com/bigflatcity/index.html>

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BUYING COLLECTIONS, Puck sections, Spirit tabs. Phone/ Fax 510-666-0732. Starland Strips, 1563 Solano #155, Berkeley, CA 94707.

SUPERMAN And Batman Sundays and dailies wanted. David Barsaloud, 12 Marion St, Chicopee, MA 01013. e-mail: barsaloud@sps.springfield.ma.us

BUYING STRIPS! Large lots, bound volumes, accumulations, also small lots and runs. All related material. Original art wanted. James Doyiakos, 2221 W. Lawrence, Chicago, IL 60625-1903.

DIGRESS

(From Page 62)

mortal Veruca Salt in *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Veruca, frighteningly, was something of a role model for Shana. Gwen is chortling mercilessly over how she is going to rub Shana's nose in the fact that she, Shana, missed out on meeting Veruca Salt. I decide, for the sake of something resembling family peace, to get Shana an autographed photo of Cole. Cole, hearing that Shana is 18, suggests a black-and-white publicity shot in which Veruca is licking a very tall, narrow, and distinctly phallic lollipop, while her disconcerted father looks on. "She's old enough to appreciate just how strange this one is," says Cole. I can't

help but think she's right. Also on hand is Paris Themman, Wonka's "Mike Tee-Vee," who autographs a lovely replica of a golden ticket to Ariel after she sings the Oompah-Loompah song.

Sunday afternoon I have a panel with John deLancie to promote our upcoming release, *I, Q*.

John is running late and I'm reluctant to get started without him. Then, audience members start begging me — literally begging me — to sing "Jubilation T. Cornpone." I oblige them, feeling like a total idiot, but they seem to like it. We are in the South; they'd be too polite to say anything else.

Later, in a spur-of-the-moment deci-

sion in the dealers' room, George (who has played Abner) and I perform "The Country's in the Very Best of Hands" for Kathleen and Shannon, while people in surrounding booths look on. Maybe we should mount an all-comics production. That's what this industry needs: more stock companies.

The convention finishes quietly. Ariel is proudly sporting a massive scar on her face, a scar manufactured during a make-up workshop as part of the kids' programming. People keep doing double-takes and saying, "Oh, my God," when they see this poor, battered child.

Gwen is walking around with an almost life-size Mini-Me. (She's reluctant to

ask me for any of the Austin Powers action figures, which she really wants, because they're made by Todd Toys and she figures I'd get upset with her. I patiently explain that I couldn't care less. Personal opinions are one thing, but toys will be toys.)

And Kathleen has a signed Brian Froud poster and a big grin on her face.

Meanwhile, Ed Kramer's face continues to vanish behind an increasingly bushy beard. I figure by the next time I see him, either he will have shaved it off or else grown it to cover his face completely. I don't know which would be cooler.

Peter David, writer of stuff, can be written to at To Be Continued Inc.,

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A. Eighth Page (4-7/8" x 2-5/8")	\$103	\$101	\$99	\$95	\$87
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C. Half Page Vertical (4-7/8" x 11") or	\$303	\$297	\$291	\$279	\$255
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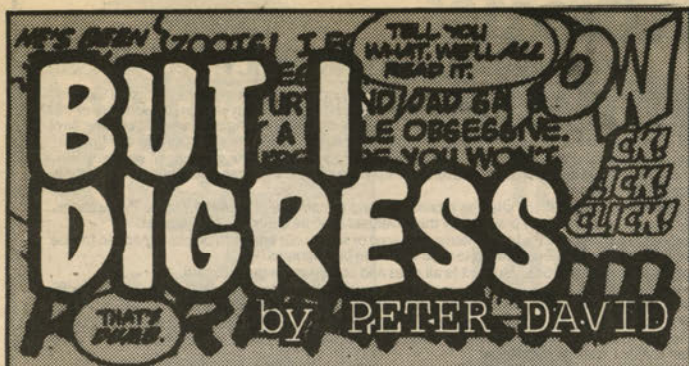
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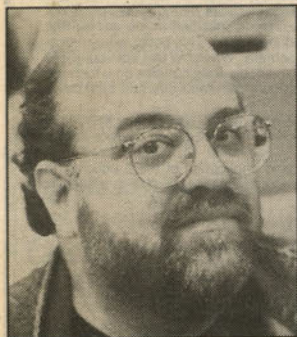
C. RETAILER DIRECTORY \$3.50 per issue

Leads fans to your cash register! List your store name, address, phone number and 15 words of description. Sold in 26 and 52 week increments. It's targeted more to the comics buff than the yellow pages - and it's more cost effective. If you sell COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE in your store, we will publish your listing in bold face type at no extra charge.



The only convention I'm doing this summer is Dragon*Con, so I figured I'd do a write-up about my recent excursion there.

Dragon*Con holds a great number of fond memories for me, both on a personal and professional level. I've been attending the convention pretty much since the beginning and have watched the thing grow almost exponentially to the current reported attendance of somewhere in the 20,000 range. In some ways it's almost gotten too big. There's something to be said for smaller conventions, where you can actually hang out with friends for extended periods of time. Between the programming schedule I was carrying and the massive number of people vying for attention, sometimes one can miss people altogether. I managed to chat with Paul Dini, for instance, for a staggering 35 seconds, when I really would have liked to see his panels.



On the other hand, the main purpose of convention attendance is to meet and greet the fans, and, for that goal, you simply cannot beat a convention like Dragon*Con.

This time around, the Davids descend *en masse*. Shana opts to remain at home, deciding that she'd rather spend the July 4 weekend with a handful of friends she does know instead of 20,000 fans she doesn't know. Poor child just cannot prioritize. However, Gwen and Ariel attend, as does my girlfriend, Kathleen. Kathleen was from Atlanta before she relocated to New York (although not for the purposes of running for Senate). Indeed, it was at Dragon*Con that we first discussed the possibility — after just being friends for the better part of a decade — of pursuing a more-than-friends relationship. I occasionally threaten her by saying that, should we get married, we should talk Dragon*Con head Ed Kramer into making the exchanging of vows (and subsequent reception) part of the programming.

The day before we go down, however, the folks at Dragon*Con ask — in a very last-minute way — if I can step in and emcee the costume ceremony. Peter Jurasik (Londo Mollari of *Babylon 5*) was scheduled to be host, but recent heart surgery has prompted him to ask for a scaling back of his activities so that he won't be pushing himself (although, curiously, he does not ask to be relieved of his duties for the Dawn lookalike contest; go figure). I've emceed the costume competition in the past, but usually I've had some prep

time. Flying solo on such short notice is going to be dicey. It's suggested that George Pérez act as co-host, and that's fine by me. George and I have emceed together before (he referred to it as Emcee Squared) and can bounce off each other quite smoothly, so it'll be a fine fit for the occasionally rowdy Dragon*Con masquerade.

We arrive at the convention without incident and I'm pleased to see that, for the first time in a while, my schedule isn't screwed up. In previous years I've been scheduled for panels that were held before I arrived or, even better, booked opposite myself (for instance, having me do a reading in one room while participating in a panel in another).

On Friday night, we attend the banquet and awards ceremony. Unfortunately, the four of us arrive a few minutes late, and George and other comics folks are already seated. Anne McCaffrey is also seated, as are Julie Schwartz, Chris Claremont, and others, all having a great time and with no room at their tables. Ariel, Gwen, Kathleen, and I are escorted to an otherwise-empty table and sit there, feeling like the cheese standing alone. It just doesn't get much lamer than this.

And then Ed Kramer, bless him, suddenly materializes with a pleasant-looking, brown-haired fellow and says to him, "You can sit here." He turns to us and introduces us to Brian Froud.

I think Kathleen's head is about to explode. Being a puppeteer, the person she *most* wants to meet is Froud, designer of such films as *Dark Crystal* and *Labyrinth*. We start chatting, and then, a minute or so later, John deLancie sits next to Kathleen. In the company of Brian Froud and Q, we are suddenly at the cool table. The rest of the evening goes well, as assorted awards are handed out to the guests of honor, as well as the recently instituted Julie award. A lifetime achievement award named for Julie Schwartz, two of them are presented: one to McCaffrey and the other to Will Eisner. It's a honkin' huge award. I can't wait to see them try to get it into their luggage.

In the meantime, I'm desperately trying to come up with some spiffy entrance that George and I can do to kick off the masquerade. My previous time out, I showed up as Moses (the year Charlton Heston was supposed to show and then canceled at the last minute) and parted the audience. But I have noth-

ing prepared. "I have one thought," I say to Kathleen, "but I'd need two sets of Jedi robes, two lightsabers, a guy dressed as Darth Maul, and the soundtrack of *Phantom Menace*."

In less than 12 hours, Kathleen manages to score, from some friends, the robes and two plastic lightsabers. On the way to the dealers' room, we encounter a guy dressed as Darth Maul who, it turns out, is going to be in the costume competition. I ask if he'd be willing to help us out with an opening sketch, and he's perfectly game for it. The only thing remaining is the easiest thing: the soundtrack.

We search through the entire dealers' room. It's nowhere to be found. I can't believe it. A science-fiction dealers' room the size of several football fields, with hundreds of dealers, and we can't score a CD of the soundtrack of America's hottest movie. Finally, we wind up borrowing one from the *Star Wars* programming track room.

With all the components in place, however, I still don't have an ending in mind for the sketch. Then I swing by George's table. Considering that last year's host, Anthony Daniels, walked in with a gorgeous model on his arm, George wants equal time by having Shannon Lower, the dancer and model who was the inspiration for his title *Crimson Plague*, up on stage with him. The end of the sketch presents itself to me.

During the day I do a reading from assorted projects. Among them is the first chapter of a novel I'm working on called *Apropos of Nothing*, a fantasy novel my agent is sending to publishers. A couple of years ago, I read an unsold short story of mine, "The Archetype," at Dragon*Con, and not too long after that it was bought by *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*. So I'm figuring maybe it will be good luck. It's the first public reading of anything from the book and it goes over extremely well. Since the title character is something of an anti-hero, I'm relieved at the warm reception.

I'm surprised about the apparent lack of support for Dragon*Con by major comic-book publishers. Dark Horse and Sirius are represented, but Marvel and DC are nowhere to be found. It's incomprehensible. This has got to be the largest comics-related convention on the East Coast. I know times are tight, but how in the world they can blow off the kind of exposure they would get at the con is

beyond me. At the very least, you'd think there'd be giveaway items: comics, posters, buttons, something. Certainly, company reps are there to discuss the line, but that's not the same as having giveaways or, better, a booth in the dealer's room. It's a tremendous missed opportunity, and the way the con pulls in the crowds every year, it would — in my opinion — really behoove the majors to have a seriously visible presence.

That evening, I show up in the backstage area where the contestants are assembled and look around for the guy dressed as Darth Maul.

There were half a dozen Darth Mauls. I have no idea which one I spoke to. Fortunately, I manage to track him down, but I must seem odd to the Darths whom I walk up to and ask, "Excuse me, did I talk to you in the street?"

One botched music cue later, we are ready to go. The music from *The Phantom Menace* starts up. Darth Maul swaggers onto the stage, double-saber extended. He looks menacing. He does a few high kicks. Then, two Jedis — George and I, Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan — charge, as the audience roars. We parry and thrust across the stage, and suddenly Darth Maul stops and stares behind us. We look to see where he's looking. Out sashays Shannon in a skimpy, tight outfit. Our lightsabers, held at about hip level, angle 45° upward. She considers George and me for a moment, then wraps herself around Darth Maul, and exits with the triumphant master of darkness.

A dejected George and I trudge back across the stage, while the music continues to blast, until I shout, "Knock it off!" — at which point the music cuts off.

It definitely gets the masquerade off to a good start. Some of the costumes are good, and a few presentations are brilliant, including Best of Show winner "The Sith Who Shagged Me," a seamless blending of the two big films of the summer. Austin Powers is substituted for Obi-Wan, and Dr. Evil steps in for the scheming Palpatine. ("Through a cloning process, we have created a duplicate of my apprentice, Darth Maul — 1/8 his size. I shall call him — Mini-Maul.")

The next day in the dealer's room, we catch up with Julie Dawn Cole, whom we only recently discover is there. The name may not ring a bell, but the character she played certainly will: The im-

(Continues on Page 60)



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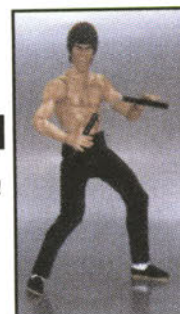
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